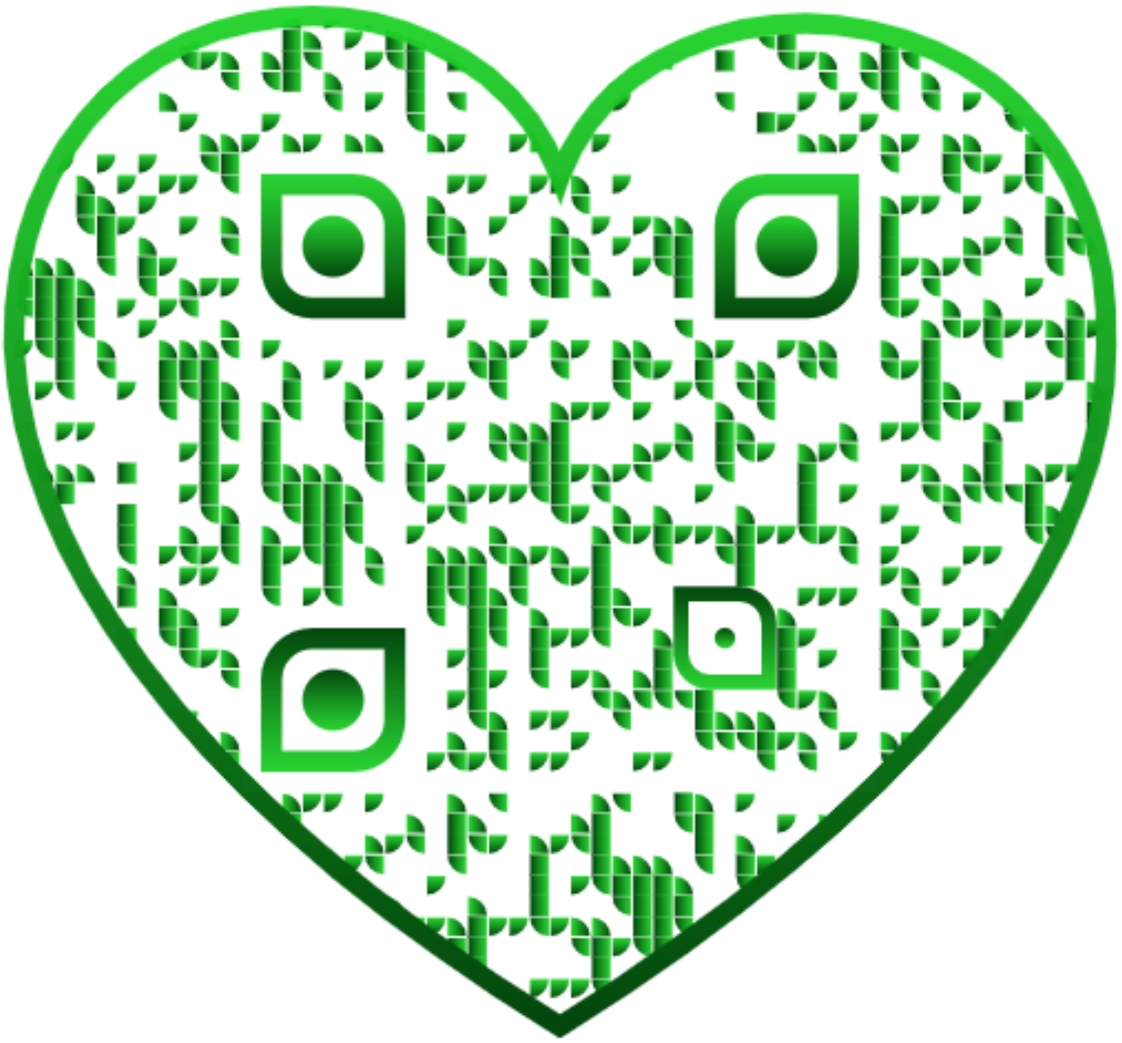
MUSIC
FILM
STYLE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NME
3 MARCH 2017
FREE EVERY FRIDAY
ED SHEERAN IS... SUPER ED!
LADZ ON TOUR
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
MUSIC'S BOY WONDER!
(BUT WERE TOO AFRAID TO ASK)



Offer excludes Volcanic Orange paint.

GO YOUR OWN WAY.
THE MINI COOPER 3-DOOR HATCH.

FROM £169 A MONTH,
PLUS £2,549 INITIAL RENTAL.*

The MINI 3-door Hatch is your perfect city companion, whether you're navigating new streets or the latest pop-up restaurants. Its iconic, nimble handling and bespoke design mean you'll always look the part. With plenty of ways to personalise your drive, you can go your own way. So, where next?

WHO'S IN?
MINI.CO.UK/HATCH

MINI

Official fuel economy figures for the MINI Cooper 3-door Hatch: Urban 49.6 mpg (5.7 l/100km). Extra Urban 74.3 mpg (3.8 l/100km). Combined 62.8 mpg (4.5 l/100km). CO2 Emissions 105 g/km. Figures are obtained in a standardised test cycle. They are intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not be representative of what a user achieves under usual driving conditions.

MINI UK, a trading name of BMW (UK) Limited, is a credit broker.

*Initial rental £2,549.00. Price shown is for a 48-month Personal Contract Hire agreement for a MINI Cooper 3-door Hatch 1.5, excluding optional Volcanic Orange paint which is available at an additional £11.31 per month, with a contract mileage of 40,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 3.8p per mile. Applies to new vehicles ordered between 01/01/2017 and 31/03/2017 and registered by 31/03/2017 (subject to availability) at participating Retailers. For vehicles registered from 01/04/2017 to 30/06/2017 prices might change due to the introduction of new vehicle tax rates. Retail customers only. At the end of your agreement you must return the vehicle. Excess mileage, vehicle condition and other charges may be payable. Hire available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. Hire provided by MINI Financial Services, Summit ONE, Summit Avenue, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 0FB.

NME

Hello...

I FIND ED SHEERAN really difficult not to like. I like how un-popstarry he is, despite being one of the biggest popstars on earth. I like the lack of fanfare from him when he casually smashes another streaming or sales record. I like how much the grime scene loves him, and I like how much American megastars love him.

I like the way that everyone who starts off thinking he's a prick ends up thinking he's a dude – even Noel Gallagher. I like the way he put the boot in on *NME* after we'd given him a couple of previous slaggings and totally underestimated just how many more records he was selling than we were selling magazines ("*I never had an enemy, except for NME / But I'll be selling twice as many copies as the magazine will ever be*").

And I like the fact that thanks to this week's cover story, I now know 50 odd things about him that make him even more fascinating. Enjoy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

COVER ILLUSTRATION: BUTCHER BILLY. CONTENTS PHOTO: NINJA HANNA

Skott: "When I'm writing a song I go on a treasure hunt" p39

COVER STORY

18
Ed Sheeran
He names his guitars. Harry Styles is blackmailing him. And more!

FEATURES

26
Russell Howard
An interview with quite possibly the most famous comedian in the UK

29
Gone Is Gone
The not-a-supergroup featuring members of QOTSA, At The Drive-In and Mastodon

SECTIONS

AGENDA 5

RADAR 31

live 41

REGULARS

12 On The Record 13 Things We Like
14 What's On Your Headphones? 39 Under The Radar
46 Soundtrack Of My Life

NME

110 SOUTHWARK ST
LONDON
SE1 0SU
TEL 020 3148 + Ext

Time Inc.

recycle

EDITORIAL **Editor-in-Chief** Mike Williams **PA To Editor-in-Chief** Karen Walter (Ext 6864) **Deputy Editor** Tom Howard (Ext 6866) **Digital Editor** Charlotte Gunn (Ext 6108) **Commissioning Editor** Dan Stubbs (Ext 6858) **Senior News Reporter** Andrew Trendell (Ext 6877) **News Reporter** Luke Morgan Britton (Ext 6863) **Senior Staff Writer** Leonie Cooper **Staff Writers** Larry Bartleet, Alex Flood **Editorial Assistant** Tom Smith **Creative Director** Simon Freeborough **Designer** Dani Liquieri (Ext 6884) **Junior Designer** Cere Ebanks **Pictures** Caroline Jeffrey **Production Hub Director** Sue Smith **Sub-Editors** Lola Ayanbunmi, Gemma Birss, Melissa Harteam Smith, Lyndsey Heffernan, Pippa Park, Holly Stone **With help from** Colin Houlson, Emma Johnston **Illustrations** Studio Moross

ADVERTISING **Managing Director** Romano Sidoli **Head Of Music** Andrew Minnis (Ext 4252) **Head Of Agency Investment** Lindsay Dean (Ext 3668) **Client Investment Director** Sian Roberts (Ext 6778) **Brand Manager** Matthew Chalkley (Ext 6722) **Live & Creative Media Manager** Steve Woollett (Ext 2670) **Ad Production Manager** Barry Skinner (Ext 2538) **Head Of Project Management** Yasamin Asrari (Ext 3662) **Creative Media Manager** Tessa Webb (Ext 2566)

PUBLISHING **Production Operations Director** Richard Hill (Ext 5422) **Production Manager** Sue Balch **International Licensing Manager** Bianca Hamilton-Foster (Ext 5490) **Head Of Marketing** Nashitha Suren **Publisher** Ellie Miles (Ext 6775) **General Manager** Jo Smalley **Group Managing Director** Paul Cheal **Time Inc CEO** Marcus Rich

EDITORIAL COMPLAINTS We work hard to achieve the highest standards of editorial content, and we are committed to complying with the Editors' Code of Practice (https://www.ipso.co.uk/IPSO/cop.html) as enforced by IPSO. If you have a complaint about our editorial content, you can email us at complaints@timeinc.com or write to Complaints Manager, Time Inc. (UK) Ltd Legal Department, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU. Please provide details of the material you are complaining about and explain your complaint by reference to the Editors' Code. We will endeavour to acknowledge your complaint within 5 working days and we aim to correct substantial errors as soon as possible.

© Time Inc. (UK) Ltd Reproduction of any material without permission is strictly forbidden LEGAL STUFF: NME is published weekly by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, 3rd Floor, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU. NOT FOR RESALE. All rights reserved and reproduction without permission strictly forbidden. All contributions to NME must be original and not duplicated to other publications. The editor reserves the right to shorten or modify any letter or material submitted. Time Inc. (UK) Ltd or its associated companies reserves the right to reuse any submission, in any format or medium. Printed by Wyndeham Bicester. Origination by Rhapsody. Distributed by IPC Marketforce. © 2017 Time Inc. (UK) Ltd. Subscription rates: one year (49 issues): UK £36; Europe 70 Euros; North America $77; rest of world £50. For subscription enquiries, please call +44 (0) 33 0333 1133 or email help@magazinesdirect.com.

Sigrid

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY
HOXTON SQUARE BAR & KITCHEN
LIVENATION.CO.UK • TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
A Live Nation Presentation in association with UTA

riverisland.com
FIND YOURSELF AT
RIVER ISLAND
#ImWearingRI

AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

The second coming

Four years after conquering the world with 'Royals' and 'Tennis Court', Lorde is back. A good time to revisit these magnificent words she posted on Facebook in November, about turning 20 and her imminent second album

"I maxed out every single emotion I have in the best possible way, the colours still aching behind my eyes like this weird blissful hangover."

"My heart broke. I moved out of home and into the city and I made new friends and started to realise that no one is just good or bad, that everyone is both. I started to discover in a profound, scary, blood-aching way who I was when I was alone, what I did when I did things only for myself. I was reckless and graceless and terrifying and tender. I threw sprawling parties and sat in restaurants until the early hours, learning what it's like to be an adult, even talking like one sometimes, until I caught myself. All I wanted to do was dance. I whispered into ears and let my eyes blaze on high and for the first time I felt this intimate, empire-sized inner power."

"And then I wrote a record about it, all of it, so much more than what I've written down here, and I'm in New York getting it done. And tomorrow, I'm not a kid any more, and more and more I'm realising that the weirdness of those Mylar balloons is going to be okay. Writing 'Pure Heroine' was my way of enshrining our teenage glory, putting it up in lights forever so that part of me never dies, and this record – well, this one is about what comes next."

"I want nothing more than to spill my guts RIGHT NOW about the whole thing – I want you to see the album cover, pore over the lyrics (the best I've written in my life), touch the merch, experience the live show. I can hardly stop myself from typing out the name. I just need to keep working a while longer to make it as good as it can be. You'll have to hold on. The big day is soon. I know you understand."

LOGAN

"THE BEST WOLVERINE YET"

★★★★
EMPIRE

★★★★ ★★★★
THE GUARDIAN EXPRESS

"A RAGING SUCCESS"

★★★★
DEN OF GEEK

★★★★ ★★★★
DIGITAL SPY GamesRadar+

★★★★ ★★★★
INDEPENDENT HOLLYWOOD NEWS

"ONE OF HUGH JACKMAN'S GREATEST PERFORMANCES"
LITTLE WHITE LIES

★★★★ ★★★★
HEY U GUYS TIMEOUT

★★★★ ★★★★
IGN TELEGRAPH

★★★★★
FLICKERING MYTH

IN CINEMAS & IMAX®
MARCH 1

MARVEL

IMAX® is a registered trademark of IMAX Corporation

Bring them the horizon

Soon, Massachusetts rock sensations PVRIS will release their second album and tour the US with Muse and The 1975. Singer Lynn 'Gunn' Gunnulfsen is ready for the major leagues

Why did you go down so well with fans on your recent tour with Bring Me The Horizon?
"They've always been a band that aren't afraid to push boundaries and evolve while still remaining true to their core entity. Their fanbase has grown with them and always been incredibly receptive and enthusiastic towards that, and it's amazing to witness. Our band has the same mentality and confidence in taking risks – as long as it remains cathartic and real, perhaps that's what their fans have picked up on."

When you were writing debut album 'White Noise' you said you were in a very "dark place" in your mind. Will the next record sound more hopeful and optimistic?
"Looking back, I can assure you that 'dark place' was nothing compared to where I found myself during and after the record cycle – it got worse. I've found myself in an even darker place. This next record will not sound hopeful or optimistic, at least not in a blatantly obvious manner, and I'm not quite sure if our music ever fully will. It'll always possess melancholy undertones. That being said, there are ways to find growth and constructiveness through the times and situations we label as negative."

It must be terrifying living under the rule of Donald Trump. Has that given you any kind of musical reaction lately?
"Definitely. This is a time of heightened anger, fear, sadness. More than ever, people are looking for something to latch onto – whether that's on the most personal levels or the broadest. Everything on this record was written before the election and it was written from incredibly personal areas of my life, but current events have made me take a deeper look into those subjects and emotions."

You've been very outspoken about your dislike for religious hypocrisy. Have you seen any increase in that in society at large?
"Oh, absolutely. I dislike hypocrisy in any environment. The world's in a very volatile state but I think in time, most likely after much more confusion and chaos unfortunately, it'll find its balance again. I truly think that humanity as a whole is capable of working together to reach that, slowly but surely. While all the negative and dividing factors have been so apparent lately, unity and fire and compassion are just as apparent, which gives me so much hope."

PVRIS play O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire in London on May 4 and 5. Their second album is out later this year

INTERVIEW: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: MAX FAIRCLOUGH, REX FEATURES

"This is a time of anger and fear"

GOOD WEEK

VIOLA DAVIS
The *Fences* star became the first black actress to win the trinity of an Oscar, an Emmy and a Tony for acting.

MAHERSHALA ALI
Meanwhile, the *Moonlight* star became the first ever Oscar-winning Muslim actor. In your face, Trump.

DONALD TRUMP
Lana Del Rey has been encouraging fans to use witchcraft against him. Sad!

NICKI MINAJ
Remy Ma released a scathing seven-minute attack on her rival called 'shETHER'.

BAD WEEK

THE BEATLES™

VINYL COLLECTION

ISSUE 1
ABBEY ROAD

MAGAZINE
+ 180g VINYL

£9.99 AT YOUR NEWSAGENT OR ORDER ONLINE AT
deagostini.co.uk/beatlesvinyl

Apple

DeAGOSTINI

UNIVERSAL
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

Welsh wizards

Director Jonny Owen's *Don't Take Me Home* film relives Wales' Euro 2016 campaign. He picks five songs to soundtrack their heroic journey

Wales celebrate their second goal against Russia

MOMENT: *Wales' first major tournament game since 1958*
SONG: *'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' (Welsh anthem)*
"It's so powerful. It's all about comrades, brotherhoods and looking after one another, which is quite pertinent at the moment with the way the world is. The anthem being cheered on the world stage was a big moment for me."

MOMENT: *Gareth Bale scores against Slovakia*
SONG: Small Faces *– 'Ogdens' Nut Gone Flake'*
"This was a bit like our Italia '90, in the sense that we didn't win it but a momentum started and we kept winning. Everybody was swept along with this journey the team were on. This is one of my favourite instrumentals and I always wanted to use it in a film."

MOMENT: *Wales progress from the group stage with a 3-0 victory over Russia*
SONG: Super Furry Animals *– 'Bing Bong'*
"I love Super Furry Animals. They're *the* Welsh band for football. They're supporters. I saw Gruff [Rhys] out there in Toulouse, in among the fans. There's always a real intelligence behind what they do – everything is considered. They're great pop songwriters as well."

MOMENT: *Triumphing over Belgium in the quarter-finals*
SONG: Michael Viner's Incredible Bongo Band *– 'Apache'*
"Really early hip-hop DJs used that song. There's always been a close tie between football and music. Some bands were hugely popular on the terraces – The Smiths especially. Pet Shop Boys were massive. And I can remember the Chicago house stuff happening. The same with rave culture."

MOMENT: *Bowing out to eventual champions Portugal in the semi-finals*
SONG: Richard Hawley *– 'Tonight'*
"I always get a sense of time and place with his music. He puts me in a certain mood. I wanted to say what it felt like to go out of the tournament. You're away for weeks and think it's never gonna end, but like everything in life it has to end."

***Don't Take Me Home* is in cinemas now. Turn to page 36 for the NME review**

WORDS: JAMIE MILTON. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES, JENN FIVE

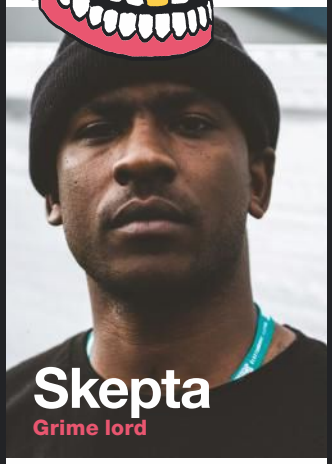
Last W33K IN NUMBERS

3
Hours Foo Fighters say they want their Glastonbury set to last for.

2
Minutes Emma Stone and the *La La Land* crew spent thinking they'd won the Best Picture Oscar. Ouch.

0
F**ks given by Blossoms about fanboying Liam Gallagher. If they met him they'd "lick his face".

2
Legends (Stormzy and Bradley Walsh) who talked about collaborating during our Brit Awards interview.



Skepta

Grime lord

You hung out with London mayor Sadiq Khan at the V05 NME Awards 2017. Had you met him before?
"Nah, that was the first time I met Sadiq. Me and politics don't really go hand-in-hand. But I heard this guy likes me and is on what we're on, so I like him."

Would you ever run for mayor?
"Nah, we just have to treat the world nice, innit? If you treat your world nice and I treat my world nice and both of our worlds are cool, we don't bomb no one, do we? Leave all that politics and war to the people who are doing it and concentrate on the goodness we're doing."

Matt Healy from The 1975 said you guys are going to work on something...
"We've been in the studio together so when it happens it's just going to come out. 'Cause we're not in a rush – we might as well just bring out the best version of what we've done, so, yeah, soon. I love Matty."

What else have you been working on?
"Myself. Trying to be a better person, you know? Trying to have more time for my friends and be more compassionate, and not think that people know what I know. I've got a very 'You should know what I know' swag and I don't want to have that."

Good things come to those who wait

It's been four years since London Grammar's huge-selling and aptly titled debut album 'If You Wait'. Now, as 2017 promises world domination for the trio, they talk about the long journey to album number two

Grammar school

A recap of their story so far

2009 Met at Nottingham University

IT WAS HARD TO DEAL WITH REALITY AFTER THE HIGHS OF ALBUM ONE

Dan Rothman (guitarist): "We definitely came back and lost our minds a bit. I think that's natural. Most people in their mid-twenties have an existential crisis – or a quarter-life crisis."
Hannah Reid (singer): "That's what people said about our first record, so we're still in it."

THEY HAVEN'T SPLIT UP

Dot Major (percussion, synths): "I was talking to this girl who lives next door. She said she was on this Reading Festival forum and there was a rumour about who was going to play and someone suggested us, then another was like, 'Oh no, they've split up.' Everyone was like, 'Yeah, for sure!'"
Hannah: "Another artist came up to me at a festival and was like, 'Oh, you guys are playing? I heard that you guys had just stopped.' I was like, 'No! And we're still really good friends as well! Where has this come from?' We probably like each other more than ever now."
Dan: "We've been lucky. We had our moments on the last one because it was f**king stressful, but we've managed to come through it."

ALBUM TWO IS 'DREAMLIKE, WIDESCREEN'

Hannah: "The first album was a lot more about relationships. The second one is too – but in a different way. It's probably about the relationship you have with yourself rather than one specific other person, or the relationship that us three had on the road. And there's a lot about the meaning of life in general, which is *so* lame."

THE XX COMPARISONS HAVE COME TO AN END

Dan: "I think that comparison will be made even less so now. It sounds like a completely different realm. No disrespect to them because I think they're amazing. It's the fact that there's three of us – but it's just lazy."
Dot: "It's totally natural – it's the attention span that people have, and that's not negative because I have it as well. You look at something and you want a point of reference to [decide] if it's going to be worth even five seconds of your time. Having some kind of comparison is inevitable. The xx are amazing, of course."

FANS CAN EXPECT TO REALLY *FEEL* THEM THIS TIME AROUND

Hannah: "Expect an emotional connection above all else. That's the most important thing."

INTERVIEWS: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTO: ELLIOT LEE

London Grammar
(l-r): Dan, Hannah, Dot

2011 Moved to London, got a manager and started gigging

2012 Signed to Ministry Of Sound. Shared the track 'Hey Now' on YouTube, the world fell in love

2013 The 'Metal & Dust' EP was released. The tracks 'Wasting My Young Years' and 'Strong' gatecrashed the charts

2014 'If You Wait' was the fifth best-selling album of the year and 'Strong' won the Ivor Novello Award for Best Song Musically and Lyrically

2016 Released lush new track 'Rooting For You' on New Year's Eve. 'Big Picture' followed shortly and racked up millions of views on YouTube

To the Customer: *This original coupon (not a photocopy) can be used in payment or part payment for any VO5 styling product (excludes travel sizes) up to a maximum value of 50p. Where the product is priced above 50p the difference must be paid by you. One coupon per transaction at Superdrug stores (excluding on-line). This coupon cannot be used with any other offer or exchanged for cash and may not be auctioned, sold, traded, transferred or assigned. Coupon void if altered, photocopied or reproduced (whole or part). Any such misuse may constitute a prosecutable offence.*

To the Retailer: *Promoter will redeem this coupon at 50p provided ONLY that it has been taken in payment or part payment for VO5 styling products, excluding travel size. One coupon per transaction. Please submit coupons within 6 months of coupon expiry date. Promoter reserves the right to refuse payment for coupons if it has reason to believe that they have been accepted other than in accordance with our terms. Please submit coupons to Unilever UK Ltd., c/o Valassis Ltd., PO Box 6199, Nuneaton, CV11 9HQ. Valid in the UK only.*

VALID: 03.03.17-10.03.17

9 904562 260500 >

Promoter: *Unilever UK Limited, Unilever House, Springfield Drive, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7GR.* ***Coupon Code:*** *0004-01001*

ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

Witchcraft is the new feminism

Samantha Robinson plays a strong and spooky woman in *The Love Witch*

IT'S HARD OUT HERE FOR a witch. Well, at least it was 400-odd years ago when women were regularly hanged, drowned and burned to death after being accused of sorcery, Satanism and doing suspicious things with herbs. This fear of 'witchcraft' was, in essence, a fear of women's power, sexuality and general awesomeness.

Thankfully, women are no longer persecuted when crops fail and odd things happen in the village – they're persecuted for their weight, their clothes and their work instead – but witches seem to be firmly back in the public eye and this time they're not going to be dragged off to the stake. They're going to put on a s**t-tonne of black eyeliner and sort out everything that's rubbish in the world.

This isn't simply about the fact that loads of new bands, from moody electronica trio MUNA to Manchester indie-poppers Pale Waves, look like they've stepped out of 1996 teen witch movie *The Craft*. A-listers are also getting in on the sweet occult action and taking their witchy business straight to the top. Last week Lana Del Rey attempted to organise her coven of fans into using magic to get rid of Donald Trump. The high priestess of noir-pop tweeted the days of the next waning crescent moons and instructions to find a spell online, to be performed at midnight on the proposed dates. All you need to join in is an unflattering photo of Trump – not difficult, to be fair – a 'tower' tarot card, an orange candle, a bowl of water and some salt. See you down the homeware aisle of Tesco, then.

"Fear of 'witchcraft' was a fear of women's power"

But the best bit of modern magic comes in the shape of a new film called *The Love Witch*, which goes on general release in the UK on March 10. Directed by LA-based auteur Anna Biller, it uses the Technicolor gloss and retro style of cult and camp thriller movies like *Vertigo*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Wicker Man* and *Suspiria* to take a sledgehammer to the patriarchy. The film tells the story of Elaine, a woman who uses sex magic to make men fall in love with her while wearing some fabulous vintage-styled frocks – also made by the multitalented Biller. Yet beyond the beehives, it cleverly deconstructs the idea of women as marriage-obsessed hysterics with style, sass and an excellent tampon joke.

Witchcraft in 2017 is about women coming together, not about being torn apart. Whether it's Lana Del Rey getting her goth on or thousands coming together for the Women's March in January, the witches are rising – excuse me while I go and fetch my broomstick. *@leoniemaycooper*

PHOTO: ICON FILMS

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

In the hood
Converse's new line of apparel basics is simple but well snuggly.
£70 *converse.com*

Silver screen
The stunning Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds film by Andrew Dominik is out now on DVD.
£12.99 *nickcave.com*

Top tour
Black Sabbath have played their final gig – pay tribute with this repro '78 tour shirt.
£17.95 *nmemerch.com*

Bra-vo
Monki do swanky but sweet underwear for great prices, like this cute Lonnie bra.
£10 *monki.com*

Core blimey
Friels Cider is an award-winning, small-batch apple booze. Yum.
£1.99 *tesco.com*

Beats go on
BeatsX wireless earbuds charge super-fast and sound super-good.
£129.95 *apple.com*

Booty call
The new 3-Eye Shoe from DM's Lite is fresh and stylish, and couldn't be more comfy.
£115 *drmartens.com*

Record attempt
The estate of iconic hip-hop producer J Dilla has just put out this official turntable.
£119.99 *rapandsoulmailorder.com*

Sweet viewing
Settle down with Andrea Arnold's awesome road movie *American Honey* on DVD.
2 for £20 *hmv.com*

Fred or dead
Indie horror game *Five Nights At Freddy's* has shirts – and they're pretty decent.
£14.99 *hmv.com*

Jean genie
The newest member of the Levi's family, the 501 Skinny, is classic but with an edge.
£110 *levis.com*

Golden year
Celebrate rock's landmark year with new book *1971: Never A Dull Moment*.
£9.99 *foyles.co.uk*

Director action
The BFI shop stocks ace Cinemetal shirts, like this Werner Herzog meets Danzig one.
£25 *shop.bfi.org.uk*

Box of dreams
Celebrate the late George Harrison's 74th birthday with *The Vinyl Collection* box set.
£349.99 *hmv.com*

YOUR TOWN. YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE

What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Brixton

‹ EMMA BERNARD

20, English student

Listening to:
PHARRELL WILLIAMS
Happy
"It's just so catchy and it makes you genuinely happy when you listen to it."

Wearing: Superdry coat, H&M trainers.
Best thing about Brixton: "I like the vibe and the Bowie mural is great."
Best hairstyle in music: "Lady Gaga. It changes so much."

CHRIS HODSON ›

26, sales

Listening to:
DRAKE
Controlla
"I'm going to see him, so I've got to brush up on the music."

Wearing: Marks & Spencer jacket, Gap jeans.
Best thing about Brixton: "There are so many cool bars and restaurants."
Best hairstyle in music: "Julian Casablancas. It's very rock 'n' roll."

‹ SHANNAH KINGSTON

24, Google employee

Listening to:
MACY GRAY
I Try
"I was in a bad mood and it's a very relaxing song. It cheers me up."

Wearing: coat from Sweden, vintage jumper and jeans.
Best thing about Brixton: "It's got a young energy."
Best hairstyle in music: "David Bowie. He always had a lot of variety going on there."

PHOTOS: ANDY HUGHES

MAHALIA ROSE BURKMAR ›

18, singer

Listening to:
SAMPHA
Under
"It's impressive the way he moves around his rhymes."

Wearing: Shore Leave coat, Ellesse jumper.
Best thing about Brixton: "It just feels so community-based and very real."
Best hairstyle in music: "Sia. It's sick, but I also love that she's hidden."

‹ CONNOR SCHOFIELD

23, Jaws singer and guitarist

Listening to:
THE CURE
A Forest
"It's one of those tunes that I love and don't know why."

Wearing: Tommy Hilfiger jacket, Bronze hat.
Best thing about Brixton: "So many characters!"
Best hairstyle in music: "Robert Smith because he's like 100 years old and still has the same haircut."

"The food at Pop Brixton is amazing"

MARTA COSTA ›

22, post-grad student

Listening to:
DRAKE FEAT. RIHANNA
Too Good
"The lyrics are simple and the rhythm's catchy so it puts me in a good mood."

Wearing: La Redoute coat, Adidas jumper, Nike trainers.
Best thing about Brixton: "There's a life about the place at any time."
Best hairstyle in music: "Rihanna. She changes it a lot, but it's always perfect."

MELISSA HOBAN ›

24, mental health worker

Listening to:
BENJAMIN CLEMENTINE
Edmonton
"It's really beautiful. He pronounces all his words really well."

Wearing: charity shop coat, vintage leggings, Dr Martens shoes, Zara scarf.
Best thing about Brixton: "There's always something to do here."
Best hairstyle in music: "Erykah Badu. She can do whatever she wants with it and it's completely unique."

TIM HAZZARD ›

29, Apple Store assistant

Listening to:
BEACH HOUSE
Levitation
"I saw them at the Sydney Opera House a year ago and it was really good."

Wearing: Uniqlo jacket, jumper and scarf, Silent Theory jeans.
Best thing about Brixton: "The food at Pop Brixton is amazing."
Best hairstyle in music: "Danny Brown. I like how it's all unkempt."

TOPMAN

ON TOUR WITH NME

More artists announced!

Playing Nottingham on *NME* and TOPMAN's jaunt around the unis of Britain are teen singer-songwriter Will Joseph Cook and indie-poppers Clean Cut Kid. CCK's Mike Halls is psyched...

Clean Cut Kid (l-r): Evelyn Halls, Mike Halls, Ross Higginson, Saul Godman

Are you looking forward to the show?
"'Looking forward to' is an understatement! It will have been the longest patch we've had since we signed our deal when we haven't been consistently touring, so everyone's climbing out of their skin to get onstage. The album's taken two years to make. It's been a labour of love and we're really happy with the results, but it's been tough. So we need a whole year of letting our hair down on tour."

Will you be tearing up Nottingham, then?
"We've always stayed out and partied there. We've played the Bodega twice now and both times we wound up with complaints that people couldn't see the gig because it was that sold-out. It's a boss city."

Will you be bringing the bouncing epic pop vibe?
"It's bouncing epic pop, but very much a guitar-based thing. Our drummer has to replace his kits every other gig. He just drums through kits – he's like a John Bonham [from Led Zeppelin] style drummer. The bassist is a mad caveman guy with half his head shaved and dreadlocks, diving around the stage playing bass like it's a guitar."

Are you prepared for the rowdy student crowd?
"There are scales of rowdy. At the end of last year we did the arenas with The Courteeners and that's a rowdy crowd. At one gig I looked up and a full pint hit me on the bridge of the nose, exploded and covered Ross [Higginson, drums] head to toe in beer. My nose and eye socket swelled up so big I could barely take in air to do the tune. I don't think it'll be quite on that level."
Mark Beaumont

Clean Cut Kid's new single 'Leaving You Behind' is out now. Debut album 'Felt' will be released on April 28

The TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH *NME* dates...

...and there's more to come!

Thu March 14 Nottingham Trent University *Featuring: Clean Cut Kid, Will Joseph Cook*

Fri March 17 Strathclyde University, Glasgow *Featuring: Fickle Friends*

Sat March 18 Hull University *Featuring: Fickle Friends, Will Joseph Cook*

Wed March 22 Leeds University. *Featuring: Will Joseph Cook*

Thu March 23 University Of East Anglia, Norwich *Featuring: Fickle Friends, Will Joseph Cook*

Fri March 24 University Of Sheffield *Featuring: Fickle Friends, Will Joseph Cook*

Fri March 31 Loughborough University *Featuring: Fickle Friends*

For tickets, contact the venue directly. Only students are allowed in.

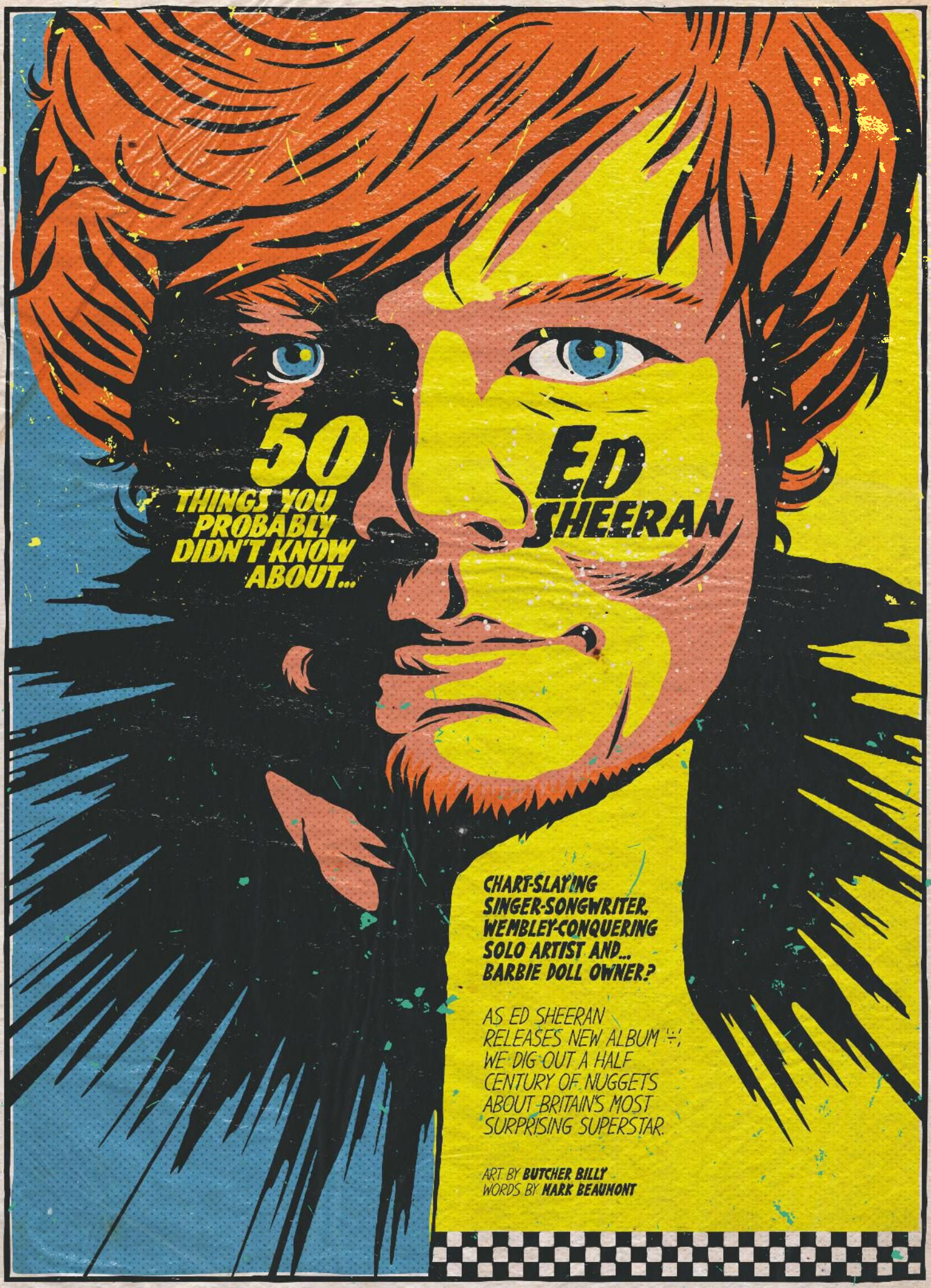
Follow TOPMAN social channels for the latest TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH *NME* news, including more dates, venues and artists

Wanna review one of these gigs for *NME*?

Go to nme.com/topmanontour and tell us, in 500 words, what's great about your uni.

THE WRITER OF THE BEST ENTRY WILL:
1 Have their Guide To Uni Life published on nme.com.
2 Shadow an *NME* journalist at the TOPMAN ON TOUR WITH *NME* gig of their choice, then review the night for us. Terms and conditions apply.*

PHOTO: JACK BRIDGLAND. *FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS PLEASE VISIT NME.COM/TOPMANONTOUR


50
THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...
ED SHEERAN
CHART-SLAYING SINGER-SONGWRITER, WEMBLEY-CONQUERING SOLO ARTIST AND... BARBIE DOLL OWNER?
AS ED SHEERAN RELEASES NEW ALBUM ÷, WE DIG OUT A HALF CENTURY OF NUGGETS ABOUT BRITAIN'S MOST SURPRISING SUPERSTAR.
ART BY BUTCHER BILLY
WORDS BY MARK BEAUMONT

1 HE NAMES HIS GUITARS

They are: Lloyd, Felix, Cyril, Trevor, Keith, Nigel and the one that does battle re-creations at weekends, James The Second.

2 HE TOOK THE SWEARING OFF 'X' BECAUSE A CAB DRIVER TOLD HIM TO

'X' originally had the odd expletive dotted about, but ended up entirely cuss-free. "I took all of the explicit lyrics out after a taxi driver convinced me to do it for his daughter," Sheeran revealed.

3 HE HAS A CULTURED FAMILY

His dad John is an art historian, his mum Imogen designs jewellery and his brother Matthew is a classical composer. What went wrong, Ed?

4 ED'S CAT HAS MORE TWITTER FOLLOWERS THAN YOU AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS PUT TOGETHER

In 2014, Sheeran created a Twitter account for his kitten, Graham, who notched up 71,000 followers almost overnight by sitting on a guitar, demanding milk and proudly telling the world every time he shat the bed. Follow him @GrahamShizza.

5 HIS SECOND ALBUM LEAKED – AND NO ONE NOTICED

When music from 'x' appeared online unexpectedly, Sheeran feared he'd blown his big comeback. Except no one could tell they were his songs and the leak went by virtually unnoticed.

6 HE PREVIEWED NEW ALBUM '÷' TO HALF OF WESTEROS

"I ended up going to a party where a lot of the *Game Of Thrones* lot were at," he told Radio 1. "They all ended up back at my house. I'd never met some of them before and said: 'Do you want to hear some of my songs?'"

7 HE WON'T BE CLAIMING THE IRON THRONE HIMSELF

For some years, *Game Of Thrones* producers have been trying to get Sheeran to make a cameo appearance, following in the footsteps of Coldplay drummer Will Champion and Snow Patrol's Gary Lightbody. But schedules were against him. "Every time they shoot I'm on tour," he told *The Sun*.

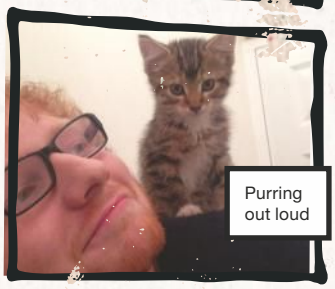
8 BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH WOULDN'T DANCE IN HIS VIDEO

The Cumberbatch had agreed to do hip-hop dancing in the video for 'Sing' but his US agent vetoed it as, according to Sheeran,"It's not right for him right now."

9 ELTON JOHN MADE HIM RELEASE 'SING'

Initially the uncharacteristically upbeat R&B track, co-written with Pharrell Williams, wasn't going to be on 'x' at all, until Elton John heard it at their joint management company's office and told him: "That's your first single."

An axe with attitude



Purring out loud

'X' kept it clean

Money talk with Goldie

10 HE DINES WITH THE STARS

"I had Van Morrison take me for breakfast and tell me he loved me," he told Radio X. "And I've had Eric Clapton come to my house for dinner – I've gone to his house for dinner and he tells me that he likes my music."

11 HE MISSED THE NORTHERN LIGHTS BECAUSE HE'D BOILED HIS FOOT

We all know about the scar he received when Princess Beatrice was 'knighting' James Blunt, but Sheeran also managed to melt the skin off his foot when he stepped in a mountain geyser in Iceland on his 25th birthday. "They were like, 'Don't walk over there!' Then I just slipped," he told the Vodafone Big Top 40. "I couldn't walk for a couple of months… It was disgusting when they put the skin graft on. The skin has to heal over it. It was bad."

12 HIS MUSIC IS A PASSION-KILLER FOR HIS COUSIN

"She's not too keen," Sheeran told Shoboy radio. "She gets brought back and wooed by guys, they put me on to set the mood and she goes: 'I'm not gonna get off to my cousin.'"

13 DRUM 'N' BASS ICON GOLDIE IS HIS FINANCIAL ADVISOR

"As soon as stuff started to go well," Sheeran revealed, "Goldie rang me up and goes, 'don't be a c**t, buy a f**kin' house!'"

14 HE ONCE RECEIVED A HAIR CAKE FROM A FAN

Pop star rule number one: never eat the edible gifts. As Sheeran found to his cost when he cut into a cake sent to him by a fan, only to find it was full of hair.

15 HE HAS A PLAN TO ESCAPE WWIII

Sheeran claims that he's enquired about gaining New Zealand citizenship because, "If a world war breaks out… no one is going to be bothered to come that far to invade."

16 HE HAS COLOURS FOR ALL OF HIS SONGS

"All my songs have colours," he's said. "'You Need Me, I Don't Need You', for example, is aubergine."

17 HE'S A SECOND COUSIN OF GORDON BURNS, PRESENTER OF '80S GAME SHOW *THE KRYPTON FACTOR*

"I only found out when I played Manchester Apollo," he told the *Guardian*. "That's when I met him. I'm second cousins with about 100 people."

18 HE ALMOST CHANGED HIS NAME TO REDWARD

He considered a name change "for a fresh start". His choice? "Redward. Edward with an 'R'. As in Jedward, who came along afterwards."

19 HE DOESN'T ANSWER 'UNKNOWN NUMBER' PHONE CALLS

It's because he received "quite a few death threats" when he first made waves in 2011.

20 HE'S ANTI-SMARTPHONE

During his year away from music, travelling the world to visit countries he'd toured but never seen very much of, he ditched his iPhone and never wanted to go back to it. "I enjoy life without a phone – it's a lot less hassle," he said.

21 HE ONCE GOT A BARBIE DOLL FOR HIS BIRTHDAY

It was a gift from his brother. He definitely didn't ask for it. Absolutely not.

22 HE WAS BORN TO SOUNDTRACK *THE HOBBIT*

When Sheeran was asked to write a song for Peter Jackson's film *The Hobbit: The Desolation Of Smaug*, it was the culmination of a life-long fascination with Tolkien's classic story. His grandfather's first edition of the novel was the first book that Sheeran's father ever read to him.

23 PETER JACKSON STRAPPED HIM TO A PLANE

As soon as he got the call about *The Hobbit* from Jackson, Sheeran raced from a wedding in Ibiza to Wellington, New Zealand, where the director keeps his collection of WWI airplanes. "He strapped me to the front of one of them and flew me around," Sheeran told *Entertainment Tonight*.

24 NANDO'S MADE A SAUCE FOR HIM

After he posed for a photo holding what's believed to be a mythical Nando's black card, allowing him free food from their restaurants whenever he likes, the peri-peri chicken chain went one further and created a special 'Ed's Peri-Peri Sauce' with his face on.

25 PIZZA EXPRESS MADE HIM A TRIBUTE PIZZA

For his 26th birthday, Pizza Express created the Ed-Abrese, a birthday pizza 'cake' made from Calabrese ingredients.

26 HIS VIDEO FOR 'THE A-TEAM' COST £20

It paid for fishnet stockings and a crack pipe.

27 HE'S TATTOO BROS WITH HARRY STYLES

They have matching Pingu tattoos. Hard-nut Sheeran went for the full portrait while soft-boy Styles just had the name done.

28 HARRY STYLES IS BLACKMAILING HIM

Styles has a video of a young Ed performing in a school production of *Grease*, and he's threatened to publish if Sheeran upsets him.

A Hobbit at heart

A cheeky Nando's

Ed's own hot sauce

Pingu ink with Harry

Fresh Prince love

In the Foxx's den

29 HE'S A *FRESH PRINCE* FANATIC

When Sheeran occasionally drops the rap from *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air* into his songs onstage, it's just a hint of his obsession with Will Smith's '90s show – he's even had a tattoo in honour of it. Although, that said, Sheeran has had so many tattoos he's probably got one about *Celebs Go Dating* on there somewhere.

30 HE SPENT A WEEK SLEEPING ON THE CIRCLE LINE...

For a week during his much talked-about homeless years in London, Sheeran would finish gigs, stay up drinking into the early hours, wait until 5am for the tube to open and then get four hours' sleep on the Circle Line.

31 ...AND AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Well, in a stone archway outside, handily fitted with a heating vent. Three years later he'd made it inside the palace, playing for the Queen at her Diamond Jubilee party.

32 HE OBSESSIVELY TRACKS HIS SALES

After every media appearance, Sheeran leaps online to check how the publicity has affected his sales. "It's just because I've never been good at anything before," he told *The Big Issue*. "I never won anything at sports, any academic award. This is the only thing in my life that I can win at. Unless Adele's about, obviously."

33 HE WAS DISCOVERED BY JAMIE FOXX

The first of Sheeran's numerous big breaks came when he landed a slot on Jamie Foxx's radio show in LA. He ended up hanging out in Foxx's Hollywood mansion as the major labels began circling.

34 HE COULD NAIL *STRICTLY*

Ed took two ballroom dancing teachers on tour with him for three weeks and spent five hours a day practising for the 'Thinking Out Loud' video, which has racked up a staggering 1.5 billion YouTube views.

35 HE'S CONSIDERING MAKING '-', AN ACOUSTIC RECORD

If he continues with his mathematically themed album titles, the next will have to be '-', which he's thought about making a stripped-back affair on which he'll "take away from the production".

36 HE CAN FIT A LOT OF STUFF IN HIS MOUTH

A video of a teenage Sheeran online proves that he can stuff a grand total of 40 Maltesers in his mouth before gagging.

37 HIS TEENAGE YEARS WERE TOUGH

He grew up with a perforated eardrum, a squint, a stutter and a port-wine birthmark (later lasered off) around one eye.

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

38 HE'S A GREAT DATE

He once flew halfway around the world to spend an afternoon with a girl he fancied.

39 ROBBIE WILLIAMS WORRIES ABOUT HIM

Backstage at a German awards show, Robbie Williams bowled into his dressing room for an agony uncle session. "He chatted to me for two hours," Sheeran told New Zealand's FVM radio station. "Really intense chatting, like, 'Are you OK? Are you doing any drugs? How's the stress level? How are relationships?'"

40 HE WROTE A SONG AT A FUNERAL

'Afire Love' from 'x' was dedicated to his Irish Catholic grandfather who suffered from Alzheimer's for 20 years before his death in 2013. Sheeran finished writing the song at his funeral.

41 HE'S BEEN IN TWO SITCOMS AND A SOAP

They are: New Zealand comedy *Shortland Street*, US sitcom *Undateable* and Aussie soap *Home And Away*.

42 HIS ACTING NEEDED SPECIAL HELP

In the film *Bridget Jones's Baby*, actor Sarah Solemani wanted him to look more taken aback during their scene, so she surprised him by stripping off and dancing in her underwear.

43 HE HELPS PEOPLE HAVE SEX

"A cousin of mine went on a girls' trip," Sheeran's said. "They were in a bar and a dude came up saying, 'Do you wanna come back to mine? I've got a song on the radio – my name's Ed Sheeran.' Apparently it works for him. There's loads of ginger people who are having a lot of fun. I'm not hating on it – we're finally getting laid!"

44 HE MADE A FANTASTIC GINGERBREAD MAN AT HALLOWEEN

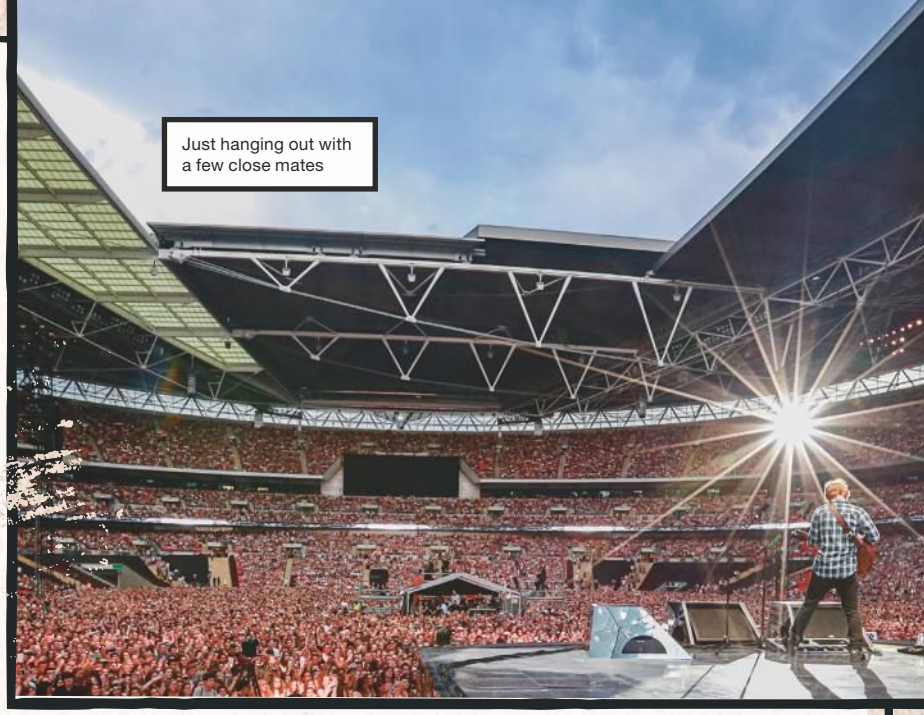
Before he named his record label Gingerbread, Sheeran had dressed as the Gingerbread Man from *Shrek* on Halloween in 2013.

45 HE'S WRITTEN A SONG ABOUT AN A-LIST LOVE TRIANGLE

'Don't', from Sheeran's second studio album 'x', is alleged to be about him, Ellie Goulding and One Direction's Niall Horan. Ed himself told Fuse the song "opened up a door that I probably shouldn't have opened up… I just won't say who it's about because… I mean everyone, everyone f**king knows anyway."

46 HE'S WRITTEN FOR EVERYONE AND THEIR DOG

You'll be aware of his writing credits for One Direction and Taylor Swift, but Sheeran has also penned songs for The Weeknd, Jessie Ware, Rudimental, Usher, Justin Bieber, Major Lazer, Hillary Duff, Robbie Williams, Olly Murs…



Just hanging out with a few close mates

You can't catch me…

He's a Lego lad

47 HE BOUGHT JORDAN FROM RIZZLE KICKS A ROLEX FOR HIS BIRTHDAY

And Jordan lost it.

48 HIS BODY IS A MEMENTO OF HIS CAREER

Almost all of Sheeran's many tattoos have some link to his career thus far. One inking marks his first single 'The A-Team', another his single 'Bloodstream'. He even has a Lego head tattoo as a nod to 'Lego House', but sadly no full-face portrait of Rupert Grint on his arse.

49 HE WAS *GQ*'S WORST DRESSED MAN IN 2013

"I still wear skater hoodies, jeans and skater shoes," he told the men's style mag.

50 HE'S WORKING TO A 15-ALBUM MAXIMUM PROFIT PLAN

"The first five EPs, then the first album '+', then 'x' and now '÷'. There'll be two more in this series of five albums and then five more after that," he's explained. "My benchmark for the second album was Coldplay. This album ['÷'], it's Springsteen… I do have numerical targets. I did 14 million of 'x' and I want to do 20 million of '÷'… It's the best album I could have made, so why not want to win? Why not want to sell 20 million?"

Ed and Taylor

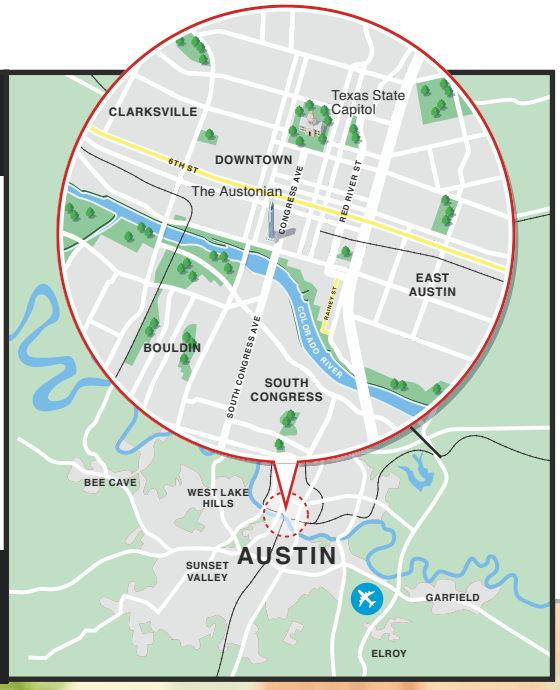
Divide and conquer

NME

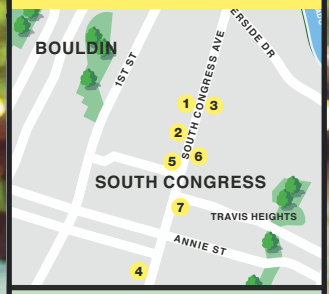
THE NME GUIDE TO Austin

– LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD® –

We all know Austin, Texas is home to the amazing South By Southwest festival, but there's far more to the Live Music Capital of the World® than that



SOUTH CONGRESS



Known for its independent shops, great food and neon signs, South Congress is dedicated to keeping Austin weird

DRINK

Gather in the cool courtyard of the Hotel San Jose (**1**) for wine and micheladas or head to Perla's (**2**) for cocktails on the patio. If you're after something with no frills, kick back with a cold beer at the Continental Club (**3**) and drink like a local.

FOOD

Open 24/7, the Magnolia Café (**4**) is a classic diner with a twist, where you can pick up traditional American food like mac 'n' cheese, as well as sturdy Tex-Mex cuisine. Guero's Taco Bar (**5**) offers straight up Mexican munch, with vegan and gluten-free options, and Home Slice Pizza (**6**) is great if you're after food in a hurry, with a takeout slice hatch as well as a sit-down restaurant and the finest pizza in town. Feeling flush? Then sophisticated Japanese spot Otoko (**7**) is the one for you.

Guero's Taco Bar is a lively affair

RAINEY ST

With its historic '30s-era bungalows, Rainey Street is as picturesque as it is buzzing

FOOD

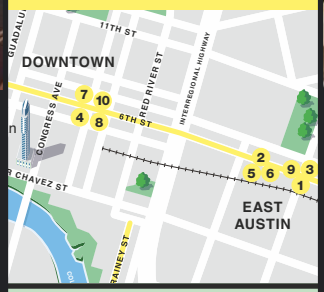
Street food fans rejoice – there are food trucks and late night eats aplenty here. Banger's (1) serves up 101 beers and nearly as many sausages on its huge patio, while down the road at Craft Pride (2) you can pick from a selection of 50 Texan craft beers. When you've worked up an appetite choose from G'Raj Mahal (3), an outpost of a former food truck that serves tasty Indian fare, or Art of Tacos (4) where traditional Mexican tacos are the order for the day. Pizza trailer Via 313 (5) is also worth a visit.

DRINK

Rainey Street is great for bars and many of them are found in gorgeous old converted wooden houses – often with huge garden patios – and the artfully dilapidated Lustre Pearl (6) is a must-visit. For the full experience, order Black Eyes: local beer with a shot of Jack Daniel's. Cocktails abound at craft cocktail haven Half-Step (7) (check out the Floradora – gin, lime and raspberry) and the velvet-clad Lucille (8), with a menu of signature Martinis.

Weird party vibes on 6th Street

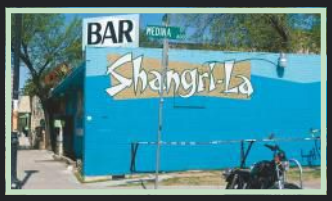
6TH ST



The three districts (Sixth Street, West Sixth Street and East Sixth Street) pack in a whole lot of different vibes

FOOD

Austin is well known for its delicious way with BBQ meat. Veggies look away now, but if you're into brisket, pulled pork and all other barbequed delights, then hit up the Rollin Smoke truck (1) for their house special, the Playboy sandwich. Other 6th Street food trucks worth a visit are Baton Creole (2), for Louisiana street snacks like fried jambalaya on a stick, and for Asian fusion delicacies that vegetarians will love, look no further than East Side King (3).



DRINK

You're never more than a few metres away from a bar on 6th Street, but if you need a little help finding the perfect spot, we suggest starting at the Midnight Cowboy speakeasy (4) – if you can find it – and then winding your way down to hipster dive Shangri-La (5) for happy hour on the outdoor patio before classy sake cocktails at Ah Sing Den (6).

MUSIC

The music leg of SXSW spreads itself all over Austin every March, but the bars and venues of 6th Street are the perfect place to start if you're feeling a touch overwhelmed by the huge scale of the yearly event. From the swanky Driskill Hotel (7) to the rooftop deck of Maggie Mae's (8), there are brilliant bands all over the bustling city hub. 6th Street is also a serious destination even when SXSW isn't in full swing – Austin is, of course, the Live Music Capital of the World® and you can find bands playing nightly up and down the strip at Parish, The Belmont, Flamingo Cantina and, NME's personal fave, Hotel Vegas (9), which is one of the city's quirkier venues.

FILM

The branch of Alamo Drafthouse (10) on East 6th Street is just one of six in Austin; the independent cinema offers cult classics, new films and endurance-testing filmathons and themed events – with great food and drink on tap to keep you going throughout. Austin also becomes the *film* capital of the world during SXSW Film Festival, which takes place in March every year in the run-up to the madness of the music event. ●●●

MAP: MIKE HALL. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY

Expect big names at Austin City Limits Music Festival

RED RIVER

Three blocks packed with barbeque joints, courtyards and banging live music

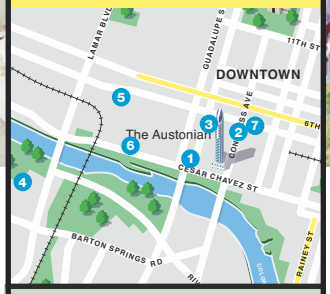
MUSIC

Austin institution Stubb's Bar-B-Q (1) isn't just a place to get unbelievable barbeque food, it's also one of Austin's best gig venues, with indoor and outdoor shows from acts including Catfish & The Bottlemen, who appear in May. The nearby Mohawk (2) is another essential bar/eatery/venue, with a year-round programme of bands. Find more local bands in Beerland (3), a great little dive with cheap drinks.

DRINK

Lively nights are guaranteed on Red River. Hit Barbarella (4) for a packed dancefloor, a labyrinth of dimly lit rooms and an alternative music policy, or head next door to Swan Dive (5) to relax. Or check out Cheer Up Charlies (6) for a huge, lively bar with indoor and outdoor areas, kombucha on tap and live music framed by a natural limestone rock wall that borders the outdoor stage.

DOWNTOWN



The high-rise heart of Austin's business district has plenty to offer tourists, too

MUSIC

The Moody Theatre (1) is home to Austin City Limits Live, which birthed the annual Austin City Limits festival and offers huge-name performers in a modern venue with state-of-the-art lighting and sound, plus a statue of Willie Nelson outside. The xx are playing there soon. Elsewhere, you'll find nightly jazz and excellent craft beer at the neon-lit, underground Elephant Room (2) and open-air gigs amid the skyscrapers at Cedar Street Courtyard (3).

OUTDOOR

Austin enjoys long, hot summers, meaning you'll need somewhere to cool off. Walkable from Downtown is the 351-acre Zilker Park, home to popular swimming spot Barton Springs Pool (4).

FOOD

Get the full American comfort food experience (and strong punch) at late night diner Irene's (5), or revel in the industrial surroundings as you chow down on B9 Benedict at Boiler Nine (6).

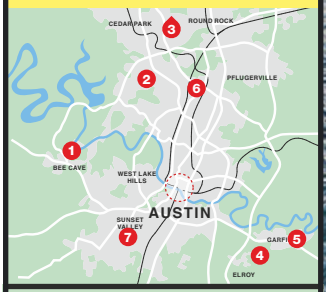
FESTIVALS

Zilker Park (4) is home to Austin City Limits, the giant music festival in the heart of the city that takes place over two weekends every October. This year's line-up is yet to be announced, but previous performers include Kendrick Lamar, Radiohead and Mumford & Sons. So pretty big.

DRINK

If you can get past the security (a keypad under a sign reading 'Floppy Discs Repaired'), Red Headed Stepchild (7) is a wild, weird speakeasy, with taxidermy, a ouija board and purple drank on the menu. Its owners have quirky form – they also own the moustache-themed Handlebar.

OUT OF TOWN



If you can tear yourself away from the city, there's plenty to see and do

MUSIC

Every year country legend Willie Nelson opens up his ranch Luck (1) for a mini festival. Sound on Sound is a seriously good music festival hosted in Sherwood Forest (2) and set to return this year – full line-up announced soon.

DRINK

California isn't the only place in the States that knows good wine. You can weave your way through local vineyards and wineries in Hill Country (3) and sample all the delights of the Texas Wine Trail.

SPORT

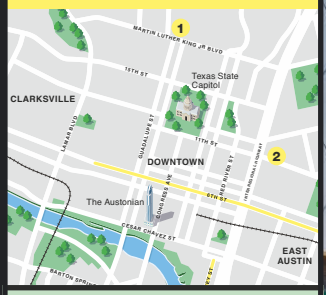
Austin is home to the Formula One United States Grand Prix. You can find the Circuit of The Americas (4) in Elroy, where the annual event takes place. Taylor Swift even played her only show of 2016 by the track.

OUTDOOR

Head just outside of the city and you can go hiking, biking and more. NLand (5) is the US's first artificial surf park, so you can catch some waves even though you're nowhere near the beach. There are plenty of inspirational walking trails if you don't fancy getting wet. Get on your bike – or hire one – for action-packed cycle trails through Walnut Creek (6) and Slaughter Creek (7).

NLand is the US's first artificial surf park

AROUND TOWN



Other great bits to check out

THINGS TO SEE

The 'Hi, How Are You' mural – a giant frog painted by local hero and cult musician Daniel Johnston on the side of a building in the university district (1) – is a must-visit. The unofficial emblem of the Keep Austin Weird campaign, Jeremiah The Bullfrog was also a favourite of Kurt Cobain, who had it on a T-shirt. Other highlights include the Cathedral Of Junk, a building made from bikes and surfboards.

FOOD

You could argue forever about which place does the best BBQ in Austin, but Franklin Barbecue (2) is one of the most famous – expect to queue almost as long as it takes to smoke some pork. The brisket is totally worth it.

Daniel Johnston's famous mural

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Fly non-stop to Austin with British Airways. Book now at BA.com

GOOD
NEWS
HUNTING
DIRTY
VELVET

Telly funnyman Russell Howard has just kicked off a massive world tour that puts him firmly in comedy's premier league. He tells Larry Bartleet why he's not yet demanding Weetabix from strangers

You're famous for talking about good news, but there's not loads of it about at the moment. Has that impacted on your new touring show?
"Yeah, it's loads of stuff about politics. Loads of stuff about anger. Yeah, it's mostly politics and anger at the moment. I don't think we've ever been more divided. It's only right-wing f**k-knuckles that grab the public's attention – Farage or Trump or Le Pen or Wilders from Holland. You think, 'Where are our Gandhis? Where are our Martin Luther Kings?'"

What are *your* politics?
"I think all our leaders are utterly beneath us. You just watch Prime Minister's Questions and go, 'How is this the best that we've got?'"

Didn't you once get approached by some political parties for advice on talking to young people?
"They interrupted when I was watching *The Secret Life Of Pets*. Like, I am *not* the go-to person to fix this country. You know you're in real trouble when you're thinking: 'OK, ask that bloke off the telly, see what he thinks.' Where does that f**king end up – door-stepping Joey Essex? Like, 'Alright, he wants inflatables. Can we get some?'"

You're really quite famous now, Russ. How do you stay grounded?
"I just have my brain. I find it really weird, when I'm shopping in Tesco, the amount of times I have people like, 'What you doing in here? You're famous!' Well, I'm not going to f**king clap my hands and go, 'You in the street, get me Weetabix!'"

Let's talk money. How do you spend your riches?
"I bought my mum a car and I bought my brother one of those hoverboards for Christmas, and I bought my family a holiday to Australia. Those are some recent things I've done with my money."

What about weird hobbies or collections, though? You must have some, come on.
"I buy a lot of Liverpool trinkets. I've got Philippe Coutinho's boot – I spent three grand on that. Which, you know, is insane. But it's Philippe Coutinho's boot, what you gonna do?"

Are you famous in any surprising countries?
"Apparently the *…Good News* YouTube channel has quite a big following in North Korea and Vatican City. It's just really funny to think that there's some cardinal slinking off, 'Just off for a bit of fast-paced satire, see you in a bit!'"

Does that change the way you approach your material?
"Like what, am I going to do a gig in North Korea? No, f**k no!"

> "I am *not* the go-to person to fix this country..."

You are playing Dubai, though. Do you think you'll have to adapt your act at all for the local morality laws?
"I'll just crack on and do whatever, I think. Hopefully I don't end up in prison for a f**king joke. S**t! I hadn't thought about that…"

Are there any other strict countries like that on your tour?
"I'm doing a week of gigs in China, so I had to send a video of me performing in Hereford – I think for some guy in the Chinese government to check whether it's allowed to be said. I just feel so sorry for him. Poor sod's got to traipse through everything I say – like, 'What does he mean? What are Ginger Nuts?'"

You play a fair few music festivals. What's that like as a comedian?
"You feel like a piece of wool being pushed around by a cat. It's brilliant. When I did Leeds, all I said was 'Alan', and then literally 5,000 people started going 'Steve!' Apparently it's a YouTube clip of a squirrel? Mate, I had no idea. That was the first time I learnt about 'd**ks out for Harambe' too. I was chatting about the gorilla that got shot, and this bloke got his c**k out. I'm like, 'What you doing?' and he's like, 'D**ks out for Harambe'. Again the crowd chanted it – and you're like, 'What the f**k is going on?'"

You mentioned *…Good News* – has that stopped now that you've signed up with Sky?
"Yes. The new show doesn't start 'til October: it'll be like a hybrid between *…Good News* and a chat show."

Speaking of good news – is there any at the moment?
"There's a lady in Hull who dresses up as a bee."

As a bee.
"Yeah."

What?
"I think she's 85, and she dresses up as a bee to raise money for Age Concern [now Age UK]. I think she's raised like £170,000. Every Saturday she dresses up as a bee and raises money for lonely people. She's absolutely incredible. There should be a section at the end of the BBC News that just has a little clip of her every day, going, 'And in other news, that little old lady is still dressing up as a bee and raising money for other little old ladies.' F**king right."

Russell Howard's Round The World tour began on March 1 with 10 back-to-back nights at London's Royal Albert Hall before taking in 17 further arenas around the country. For details, visit russell-howard.co.uk

NME

Russell Howard's good friends

Just some of the people he hosted on *…Good News*

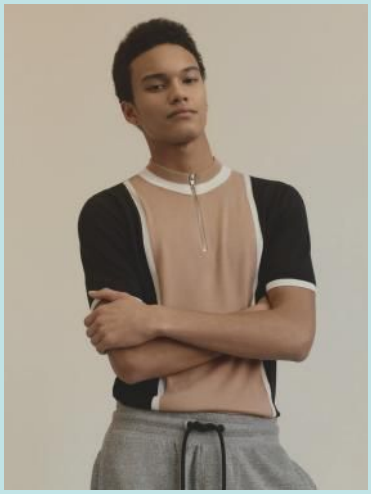
'Big Jackie' Bates, Britain's Number One sumo wrestler, who shoved Russell to the floor.

Celebrity animal psychic Jackie Weaver, who helped Russell communicate with Molly – a dog.

Butcher Allan Bennett, who won Best Sausage in Britain three times in a row and taught Russell about optimal sausage thickness.

THE NEW RULES

INTRODUCING THIS SEASON'S KEY STYLING PRINCIPLES



TUCK IT IN

Out is out. Whether it's a sharp knit or a relaxed tee – make sure you tuck it in.

DOUBLE UP

Layer denim on denim for SS17 - the credible way to wear everyone's favourite fabric.

CROP & CONTRAST

Style formal cropped trousers with skate shoes and sneakers for this season's key silhouette.

KEEP ON TRACK

Mix tailoring and track tops for a contemporary take on smart.

LAYER GAME

Upgrade your shirt by layering a hoodie, sweat or long sleeve tee underneath.

TOPMAN

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

Featuring members of Queens Of The Stone Age, At The Drive-In and Mastodon, Gone Is Gone are the super-exciting not-a-supergroup you need in your life. Here are five things to know about them

WORDS: THEA DEGALLIER. PHOTO: LINDSEY BYRNES

1 YOU SHOULDN'T CALL THEM A SUPERGROUP (TO THEIR FACES)

"I dislike the term," claims Troy Sanders, bassist and co-vocalist of art-metallers Mastodon, explaining: "It sets a bar before you know who's in the band, before you've heard one note." Completing the GIG line-up are Queens Of The Stone Age guitarist Troy Van Leeuwen, At The Drive-In drummer Tony Hajjar and sound designer Mike Zarin.

2 THEY'RE NOT ATTEMPTING TO USURP THEIR DAY JOBS

Gone Is Gone isn't an attempt to step out from the looming shadows cast by better-known bandmates like QOTSA frontman Josh Homme. These are four guys stoked on the music they're making together, unconcerned by the fact that they haven't got time to tour or go big on promotion of their debut album 'Echolocation'.

3 THEIR FEROCIOUS DEBUT WAS A SPONTANEOUS, HAPPY ACCIDENT

"It was all four of us in the same room hashing it out, which is my favourite way of creating," Sanders explains. "I don't know how to write over the internet and trade files."

4 THEIR NEXT MOVE IS A STEP AWAY FROM REALITY

Mike Zarin, the group's most enigmatic member, says "there's a bunch of artists we're talking to" with a view to working with on a future visual project. Sanders adds: "We want to get involved with new technologies. We're interested in virtual reality."

5 EITHER THAT, OR THEY'LL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY

It's not entirely clear where Gone Is Gone are headed, or if the members' schedules will ever align again. But if this continues, it's guaranteed to be exciting. "I'm at the point now where anything in my life, musically or otherwise, has to mean the world to me before I'd even leave my house to do it," says Sanders. "Doing this has changed my world for ever – I'm all-in."

TONY HAJJAR
Hajjar joined At The Drive-In in 1996 and remained with them until they disbanded in 2001. In 2012, ATDI reunited, and released new track 'Governed By Contagions' in December. Their new album 'in·ter a·li·a' is released on May 5.

TROY VAN LEEUWEN
Most recently, Van Leeuwen toured with Iggy Pop on his 'Post Pop Depression' tour, alongside QOTSA bandmates Josh Homme and Dean Fertita. He's also worked with Eagles Of Death Metal and his own band Sweethead. He remains tight-lipped about future Queens plans, but we expect new material soon.

MIKE ZARIN
Zarin admits this is his first 'proper' band. For the past few years he's been composing soundtracks for film trailers. "I moved to LA and I learned about trailer music and was like, 'Wow, this exists? You can do this and make a living out of it?'"

TROY SANDERS
Sanders is best known as Mastodon's bassist and co-vocalist, and is also something of a side-project junkie. Somehow, he still finds time to be in Mastodon and will release his seventh record with the band this year: "We'll probably be touring it for a solid year or more afterwards, as long as everything stays happy in Mastodonia," he says.

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

CABBAGE

RORY WYNNE

LAST REMAINING TICKETS ON SALE NOW

MON 27 MAR NORWICH THE NICK RAYNS LCR UEA **WED 29 MAR** BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY

THU 16 MAR KEELE UNIVERSITY BALLROOM
FRI 17 MAR LIVERPOOL OLYMPIA
SAT 18 [illegible]
MON 20 MAR LI[illegible]
TUE 21 MAR EX[illegible]
THU 23 MAR LONDON ROUNDHOUSE
FRI 24 MAR BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
[illegible]IFF TRAMSHED
[illegible]S O2 ACADEMY
[illegible]EWCASTLE O2 ACADEMY
[illegible]ON GROVE
SAT 01 APR GLASGOW O2 ACADEMY

SOLD OUT

NME.COM/TICKETS | GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

AN S.J.M. CONCERTS & DF PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

PHOTO: JENN FIVE

VO5 Austin – LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD – TOPMAN Nikon ZIG-ZAG PILOT Red Stripe hmv

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR RELEASING THE RAGE
AT THE DRIVE-IN
Incurably Innocent
The post-hardcore heroes return with the blistering sound of their first album in 17 years. This is fast and furious, delivered via the medium of twiddly, tense guitars.

BEST FOR GETTING MYSTICAL
FLAMINGODS
Kewali
Like Swedish psych masters Goat? Then you'll love this sonic out-of-body experience from London-based Flamingods, who specialise in trippy trance-folk sounds.

BEST FOR FEELING FRAGILE
JOHN JOSEPH BRILL
I'm Not Alright
Wallow in the bad times with this gorgeous synthy 1980s-style ballad, the perfect home to Liverpool songwriter Brill's, er, brill baritone.

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

BEST FOR DESTROYING A DANCEFLOOR
OFF BLOOM
Falcon Eye
With claustrophobic synths and a little Middle Eastern flavour, the Denmark-based trio share another taster of their diverse palette.

BEST FOR MEDITATIVE MOMENTS
ARCA
Anoche
Going by this song, Venezuelan electronic music mastermind Arca's upcoming third album promises to be a spellbinding and sensual thing of beauty.

BEST FOR PARTY VIBES
PALE WAVES
There's A Honey
These Manchester indie-pop newbies' first single is massive. Produced by George Daniel and Matty Healy of The 1975, the song's subject matter is intimate and relatable (*"I would give you my body, but am I sure that you want me?"*), but packaged into a chorus so catchy you wonder how it hasn't been written before.

BEST FOR AIR GUITARING
THE AMAZONS
Black Magic
The up-and-coming Reading rockers dabble in magical 1970s prog for this huge-sounding tune. Time to don a wizard's cape and get involved.

BEST FOR 80S FLASHBACKS
BLONDIE
My Monster
Written by The Smiths legend Johnny Marr – calm down, 1980s fans – New York's finest deliver up a modern dose of new wave majesty.

BEST FOR STARTING SUMMER EARLY
CALVIN HARRIS
Slide
Frank Ocean *and* Migos feature on this unfettered summer anthem. So crack open the beers, pull on a nice pair of shorts and say hello to the sunshine (even if it's still freezing outside).

CALVIN HARRIS

BEST FOR BEING MOODY
LYDIA AINSWORTH
Afterglow
Gothic electro coming straight outta Toronto. Think Lana Del Rey if she'd spent her nights in Fabric instead of watching David Lynch movies in bed.

LYDIA AINSWORTH

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHE MAAS

★★★★

"A JOY TO BEHOLD"
EMPIRE

"IMPRESSIVE... DYNAMIC STORYTELLING AND POWERFUL PERFORMANCES"
SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"TRULY UNMISSABLE"
THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS

"THRILLING"
BBC RADIO LONDON

"FASSBENDER AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE"
RADIO TIMES

MICHAEL FASSBENDER

BRENDAN GLEESON

TRESPASS AGAINST US

UNITED BY BLOOD DIVIDED BY FEAR

IN CINEMAS NOW

MUSIC

Grumpy old b*****ds

The Nottingham electro-punk duo slag us off on their new album, but we can take it

SLEAFORD MODS
English Tapas
★★★☆☆
MINIMAL ANGRY POETRY

Sleaford Mods: Andrew Fearn and Jason Williamson

SLEAFORD MODS HAVE made a name for themselves as the stripped-back sound of austerity Britain. Over minimal laptop beats courtesy of Andrew Fearn, lead agitator Jason Williamson has marked out his turf as part Mark E Smith of cult post-punkers The Fall and part foul-mouthed John Betjeman in the body of a *This Is England* extra. His words – and there are lots and lots of words – don't sugar-coat. They are at turns funny, bleak and furious, taking to task big business, the government and rubbish indie bands with equal amounts of glee and derision.

'English Tapas' is the Nottingham duo's first album on the Rough Trade label, named after they spotted the phrase on a pub menu advertising a platter of chips, a scotch egg, a mini pork pie and some pickle. "It says everything about this f**king place," said Williamson. "It's comedy, it's make-do, it's ignorant and above all, it's s**t." British s**tness finds itself at the centre of this 11-track collection, from the takedown of Sir Philip Green, his super-yacht and disregard for workers on 'BHS' to sneering mentions of Snapchat, selfies and Superdry on 'Snout'. In fact, no one is safe from Williamson's scorn. The doomy 'Dull' even has a pop at us. "*Try scrolling down the website of the NME / Without laughing / I'll give you ten quid if you can keep a straight face*," he rants. Sorry you're not into it, babes.

Their stark sound might not be for everyone, but Williamson's sideways swipes at pop culture and his own big nights out are as hypnotic as Fearn's punked-up electronica which, despite its simplicity, is nigh impossible not to move to. Never stop being p**sed off guys – because it just sounds far too excellent when you're in a mood. **Leonie Cooper**

See *Kong: Skull Island* before all your pals

It smashes into cinemas on March 9 but *NME* readers have the chance to see special preview screenings across the country on March 7

HOW DO I CLAIM TICKETS?
Visit showfilmfirst.com and enter the code 188473

THE LOCATIONS:
London, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING. No, not just big. *Gigantic*. In *Kong: Skull Island*, one of the titans of action cinema is back for his most epic adventure yet. This brand new story sees Kong, the enormous ape who first became an icon in 1933, battling some very scared humans and some very scary monsters.

From the producers of *Godzilla*, *Kong: Skull Island* stars Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, John Goodman, Brie Larson and John C. Reilly as a team of scientists, soldiers and adventurers who head for a mysterious island in search of a fabled undiscovered species – but they get much more than they bargained for. Their quest becomes an explosive fight for survival, and a battle between those who want to capture Kong and those who want to save him.

If you can't wait to see what promises to be one of the biggest blockbusters of the year, we've got good news for you. Lucky *NME* readers can see *Kong: Skull Island* at one of our special preview screenings across the country on March 7, two days before the film's March 9 release.

FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS, VISIT SHOWFILMFIRST.COM.
© 2017 WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

(L-r:) Tom Hiddleston as Captain James Conrad and Brie Larson as Mason Weaver

MUSIC

PHOTOS: ED MILES, MATT SA, REX FEATURES

Music to make your hair curl

Psychedelic mischief-making from the Kettering quartet

TEMPLES
Volcano
★★★★☆
PSYCH IMAGERY ACID-FRIED

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

TEMPLES' 2014 DEBUT 'Sun Structures' arrived with sky in its hair and the endorsements of Noel Gallagher and Johnny Marr ringing in its ears, putting the Kettering quartet at the forefront of an exciting new wave of British psych. Yet whereas the artists they were most obviously indebted to – think early Bowie and Pink Floyd, Nazz and T. Rex – employed subversive humour and acid-fried absurdity, Temples themselves were masters of surface-level psychedelia: less a state of mind, more a feat of engineering. In contrast to contemporaries like MGMT or Tame Impala, whose music foregrounds the quirks and neuroses of its creators, Temples' music reveals little about the personalities behind it, other than the contents of their record collection and the breadth of their know-how. Frontman-producer James Bagshaw's carefully constructed simulacrum of psych-rock's gilded age was consummately done, but it felt more like the work of a highly skilled artisan than an all-seeing auteur.

To some extent, you could make the same criticism of 'Volcano', whose 12 songs similarly abound with trite imagery of suns, mountains and boats bobbing along on lakes of molten lava. Yet, much like its predecessor, 'Volcano' has a knack for winning you over: opening track 'Certainty', with its squelchy Moog bassline and lysergic Disney hook, is a sheer sonic marvel, while elsewhere the band's sonic palette has been expanded to include the pulsing, proggy motorik of 'Open Air' and baroque chamber-psych of '(I Want To Be Your) Mirror'. Best of all is the note-perfect approximation of The Kinks going space-glam with Brian Eno manning the controls on 'Roman God-Like Man'.

Temples might be missing the spark of genius and/or insanity that set their idols apart, and are occasionally guilty – as on 'In My Pocket' or 'How Would You Like To Go?' – of using psychedelic window-dressing to embellish otherwise unremarkable songs, but they remain supremely gifted melodists and assiduous students of the past. 'Volcano' may rank as more of a technical progression than an artistic one, but it's no less impressive for that. **Barry Nicolson**

FOR FANS OF

TAME IMPALA

PINK FLOYD

Temples (l-r): Tom Walmsley, Adam Smith, Samuel Toms and James Bagshaw

FILM

The history makers

New documentary about the greatest moment in Welsh football history

DON'T TAKE ME HOME

Chris Coleman, Gareth Bale, Ashley Williams

★★★★☆

FOOTBALL EURO 2016 BALE

THERE ARE LONG-suffering sports fans… and then there are followers of the Welsh national football team. Until last summer's Euros, it had been almost 60 years since Wales had qualified for a major tournament. After decades of agonising near-misses, finally, in 2016, they made it.

Don't Take Me Home – named after the supporters' chant that would become synonymous with the team's unlikely successful run – tells the story of Wales' giddy summer in France.

Award-winning Merthyr Tydfil documentary maker Jonny Owen pieces together match highlights, behind-the-scenes smartphone footage and new interviews with key figures. Likeable and articulate manager Chris Coleman takes the lead.

It begins by going back further, revisiting the challenging circumstances surrounding his appointment following the shocking death in 2011 of former coach, and Coleman's close friend, Gary Speed. It was a painful period, but one that would galvanise a group of players who would go on to make history.

In the competition five years later, Wales' success was a classic, plucky-underdog sports story. It revisits their win over Slovakia in their opening match, the last ditch loss to England and their sensational performance against Russia on their way to topping the group, and ultimately an unlikely appearance in the last four against the tournament's eventual winners Portugal.

Of course, this wasn't a real-life *Miracle On Ice*. When the thousands of fans – 'The Red Wall' – lined the streets of Cardiff to welcome the squad home, there was no trophy. But they'd jumped more than 100 places in the world rankings over four years and became the smallest country to ever reach the semi-final of a major tournament. It was about pride and team spirit. The contagious joy in the film is seeing the stuff outside of the games: the small moments of the players bonding, Gareth Bale messing about on a golf buggy and captain Ashley Williams recalling how he'd watch *Rocky IV* on match day, plus the countless shots of fans having the time of their lives. It's cheesy in parts, sure, but it'd struggle not to be. As one exhilarated supporter towards the end puts it: "We've taken too many hours off work, we've spent too much money, but do we care? No!" **Greg Cochrane**

Gareth Bale gives it some Welsh pride

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

FOR FANS OF

None shall pass

Michael Fassbender plays the defiant traveller in this spotty drama

TRESPASS AGAINST US

15 ***Michael Fassbender, Brendan Gleeson***

★★★☆☆

DRAMA | TRAVELLERS | ROBBING

THE TRIO OF MICHAEL Fassbender, Brendan Gleeson and Sean Harris (the villain in *Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation*, weirdo in many other films) is so vastly talented that the prospect of the three on screen together should have any film fan salivating. They prove a combustible combination in *Trespass Against Us*, even if a thin script doesn't offer them much fuel.

At the heart of this spotty drama is Chad (Fassbender), the heir apparent of a small traveller community. Extremely skilled as a getaway driver and a thief, Chad wants out of his current existence and is making plans to take his small family to a quieter camp, where they can live a more innocent life. Standing in his way is his dad, Col (Brendan Gleeson). A wannabe Don Corleone in a second-hand shell suit, Col expects the world to bend to his will. His son should do anything asked of him and his word should be unquestioningly followed. He's so pompous that he believes the Earth is flat because his father told him so, and any attempt to correct him is disrespect. He's the most dangerous kind of authoritarian: a thick one.

These are good, solid characters. Archetypes, certainly – the prideful, fading father; the defiant but frightened son – but you can do surprising things with archetypes. Alastair Siddons' screenplay, though, doesn't. The paths these men take are well worn and as the film progresses it's up to the viewer to plug the gaps in the characters based on what we know about their *type*. Col is feared by all, but the film only really shows him to be petty and vindictive. There seems a link missing between Chad's love of crime and his insistence that he's done with it, but we know how to join those up.

Harris is the hastiest sketch, as a simpleton coddled by Col. Watching Fassbender and Gleeson go at each other is as compulsive as you'd hope. These are two great actors who feed hungrily off each other. It's a shame they're not given material that draws out parts we don't know. This talent combination ought to surprise instead of simply satisfy. **Olly Richards**

Want to see *Fallen* with your mates – for free?

Heaven and hell collide in this gothic fantasy – and you could see it at the cinema, on us

HITTING CINEMAS ON March 10, *Fallen* is the dark, sexy fantasy movie that'll fill that special place in your heart once reserved solely for Edward and Bella. Based on the first of four novels by Lauren Kate, *Fallen* tells the story of Luce (Addison Timlin), a teenage girl sent to the Sword and Cross reform school in Savannah, Georgia.

While living under the institution's imposing rules, Luce soon finds herself torn between the edgy Cameron (Harrison Gilbertson) and the mysterious Daniel (Jeremy Irvine), whose frequent rejection only serves to make Luce more interested.

Meanwhile, tormented by strange visions, Luce discovers that there's more to the school and its inhabitants than you might think. As she begins to unravel the secrets of her own past, she finds she must choose where her feelings lie, pitting heaven against hell in a battle for true love.

If you loved *The Hunger Games*, *Twilight* and *The Maze Runner*, *Fallen* is for you. And here's the great news: you could see it for free at one of 30 cinemas nationwide from Friday March 10.

Below (l-r): Jeremy Irvine as Daniel, Addison Timlin as Luce and Harrison Gilbertson as Cameron

So how do I get my tickets?

Fallen hits cinemas on March 10, and over 3,000 lucky *NME* readers can see it with friends for free at selected Empire and Showcase cinemas any day between March 10 and 16. To claim up to four tickets to see *Fallen* for you and your mates, go to showfilmfirst.com and enter the code FALLEN. It couldn't be any simpler!

© 2016 FALLEN HOLDINGS, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. © 2017 LIONSGATE HOME ENTERTAINMENT UK. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

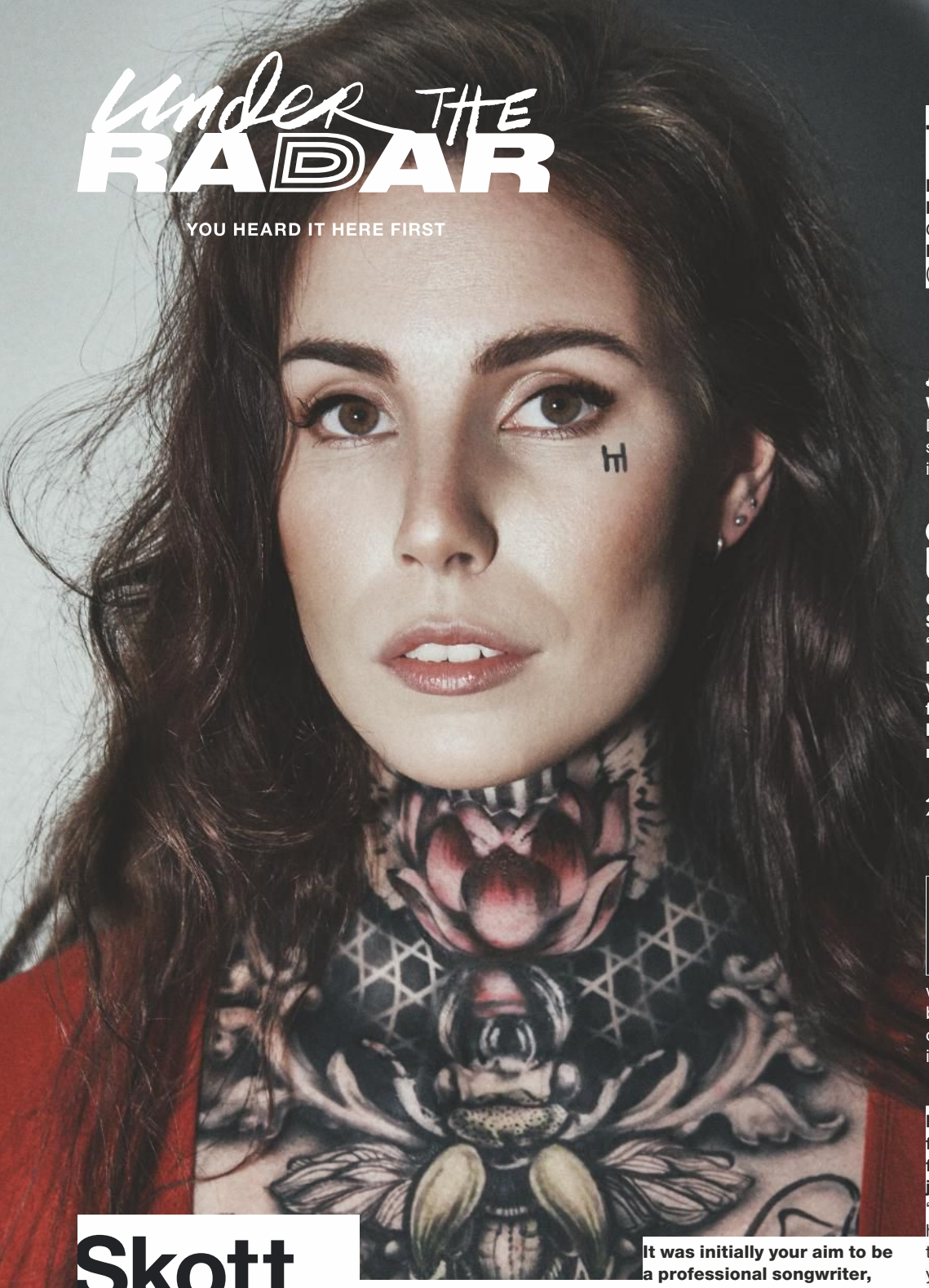
LIONSGATE

FALLEN

IN CINEMAS MARCH 10

Under the RADAR

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST



PHOTOS: NINJA HANNA

Skott

Twisting folk-pop from Katy Perry- and Lorde-endorsed Swede

WHEN KATY PERRY AND Lorde are united in praise of your first two singles, you know you're probably doing something right. The recognition still baffles Swedish musician Pauline Skott – but for anyone who's been charting her rise since debut single 'Porcelain' dropped in June 2016, the attention heading her way is no surprise.

You grew up in a small village just outside Stockholm. What music were you taking in at that time?
"Half of the village would play the violin and I did that as well. But I grew up mainly listening to video game music. I was very inspired by the game *Final Fantasy*, even though I didn't actually play it – I'd just listen to friends playing. That kind of music can transport you to being in the desert or on the ocean on a pirate ship, even if you never played it. Being moved like that is important to me."

It was initially your aim to be a professional songwriter, so what pushed you into the limelight to start performing your songs?
"I would write songs I thought I could pitch to some artists, but eventually I realised that some of the songs were just too weird for other people. So I wanted the songs to live and didn't just want to put them on a shelf to collect dust. Plus, as a songwriter you have to be prepared to let the artist do his or her thing with the song and you need to let go of control of them, which is really hard. But as an artist I don't have to, which I love."

New single 'Glitter & Gloss' features elements of electro, folk and pop – how did you juggle all that in one song?
"It might sound cheesy, but you have to stay true to your guts. If the song needs a heavy beat, you need to do what's best for it. When I'm writing I want to go on a treasure hunt and discover new elements, not be safe."

Katy Perry and Lorde have both tweeted approval of your early singles 'Porcelain' and 'Wolf'. Do we smell a collaboration?
"I would love to write for Katy, but I don't know if I'm that good at her kind of music. A combo of them would be best of both worlds. I still don't have a clue how it all happened. I almost get suspicious that someone set it up..." **Thomas Smith**

The details

FROM: Stockholm, Sweden
BUY: New single 'Glitter & Gloss' is out now
LIVE: Omeara, London (March 7)

Best track

WOLF
Driving piano and Skott's sublime falsetto vocals turn this into a tightly spun pop winner.

Strange but true

Contrary to early reports, Skott wasn't raised in a "forest commune" but a place comparable to a small village. "I was trying to use fancy words in my second language," she says of the miscommunication.

Like this? Try this!

LORDE
'Pure Heroine'
The New Zealander's 2013 debut was packed with forward-thinking electropop bangers and soon made her one of the most in demand musicians in the game at age 16.

GUNS N' ROSES
AMERICAN EXPRESS
invites
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME TOUR
FRIDAY SOLD OUT JUNE 2017
EXTRA DATE ADDED DUE TO PHENOMENAL DEMAND
SATURDAY 17 JUNE 2017
LONDON STADIUM
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK • LIVENATION.CO.UK • LONDON-STADIUM.COM
GUNSNROSES.COM
A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ITB
LIVE NATION
American Express® reserved tickets for Cardmembers*
Cardmembers can get access to reserved tickets via ticketmaster.co.uk/amex
*Tickets subject to availability. For full terms visit ticketmaster.co.uk
Realise the potential
AMERICAN EXPRESS

KISSWORLD 2017
KISS
27.5.
GLASGOW
THE SSE HYDRO
28.5.
BIRMINGHAM
BARCLAYCARD ARENA
30.5.
MANCHESTER
ARENA
31.5.
LONDON
THE O2
LIVENATION.CO.UK | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
KISSONLINE.COM
A LIVE NATION PRESENTATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH ITB

CALLING ALL MUSIC FANS
DOWNLOAD THE LIVE NATION APP
Available on the App Store
ANDROID APP ON Google play

live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Sound of the summer

It's all about The 1975, Mumford & Sons and Fleet Foxes at Latitude this year

THE 1975 HAVE BEEN proving their live chops for the past year, touring their bombastic and chart-topping second album 'I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It'. Thanks to their massive tunes, show-stopping lighting set-up and their ever-entertaining frontman Matty Healy, they're an unmissable live band – which makes it no surprise to see them step up to headliner status at Latitude. Sharing the top spot at this notoriously lovely Suffolk festival – its mascots are multicoloured sheep – are Seattle folk band Fleet Foxes, who are returning after a five-year sabbatical to play their first UK date in July. Mumford & Sons complete the headliner trio – and in news that will please fans of their Gentlemen Of The Road stopovers, the four-piece are also curating Saturday's entire line-up.

F E S T I V A L

LATITUDE FESTIVAL
July 13-16

ON SALE NOW

HEADLINERS:
The 1975 (Friday)
Mumford & Sons (Saturday)
Fleet Foxes (Sunday)
TICKETS: Full weekend £205. Instalment plans also available

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

The 1975's Matty Healy

ON SALE
NOW

POND
Madcap Aussie psych tearaways

JUNE
Thu 15 Concorde 2, Brighton
Fri 16 O2 Forum, London
Sat 17 Stylus, Leeds
Mon 19 The Art School, Glasgow
Tue 20 Gorilla, Manchester
Wed 21 Thekla, Bristol

TELL ME MORE: The four-piece includes Tame Impala members, but their live shows are much wilder. They'll be touring their forthcoming seventh album 'The Weather' – it's jam-packed with chunky synths and massive riffs.
TICKETS: £17.60-£21.45

DECLAN MCKENNA
Winner of Glastonbury's Emerging Talent Competition in 2015

MAY
Mon 15 Thekla, Bristol
Tue 16 Junction 2, Cambridge
Wed 17 Gorilla, Manchester
Sat 20 Oh Yeah Music Centre, Belfast
Sun 21 King Tuts, Glasgow
Tue 23 Heaven, London
Wed 24 O2 Institute 2, Birmingham
Fri 26 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Tue 30 Concorde 2, Brighton

TELL ME MORE: This prodigious teen writes danceable indie about big themes like corruption and tolerance.
TICKETS: £10-£12.50

WARPAINT
Moody LA quartet

MARCH
Wed 22 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Thu 23 LMUSU, Leeds
Tue 28 O2 Academy, Oxford
Wed 29 Dome, Brighton

TELL ME MORE: The four-piece are touring third album 'Heads Up' – their best yet.
TICKETS: £20.35-£24.20

RYAN ADAMS
Alt-rock hero

SEPTEMBER
Fri 8 Ulster Hall, Belfast
Thu 14 O2 Apollo, Manchester
Fri 15 Usher Hall, Edinburgh
Sun 17 Sage, Gateshead
Mon 18 O2 Academy, Leeds
Fri 22 Royal Albert Hall, London

TELL ME MORE: Adams' 16th album 'Prisoner' sees him in fine form. Expect a career-spanning set, which may include some of his underrated Taylor Swift cover album '1989'.
TICKETS: £27.50-£47.50

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

THE ORWELLS

ALICE JEMIMA
Fri 3 The Hug & Pint, Glasgow
Sat 4 Soup Kitchen, Manchester
Sun 5 The Louisiana, Bristol
Mon 6 The Lexington, London

BENJAMIN FRANCIS LEFTWICH
Tue 7 The Limelight, Belfast
Thu 9 Omeara, London

BLOSSOMS
Wed 8 The Limelight, Belfast

DEVLIN
Wed 8 Oslo, London

DUTCH UNCLES
Fri 3 The Wardrobe, Leeds
Sat 4 Bodega, Nottingham
Mon 6 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Tue 7 The Plug, Sheffield
Wed 8 O2 Academy, Oxford
Thu 9 The Fleece, Bristol

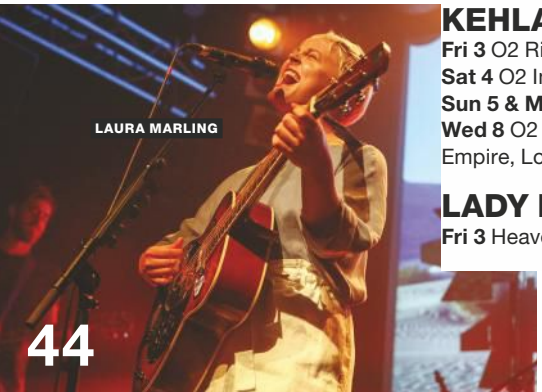
EFTERKLANG
Thu 9 Barbican Centre, London

ELBOW
Sat 4, Sun 5 & Mon 6 Eventim Apollo, London
Wed 8 The BIC, Bournemouth
Thu 9 Pavilions, Plymouth

FENECH-SOLER
Sat 4 Stealth, Nottingham

FLOATING POINTS
Sat 4 Printworks, London

GLASS ANIMALS
Wed 8 & Thu 9 Liquid Room, Edinburgh


LAURA MARLING

HAMILTON LEITHAUSER
Tue 7 Village Underground, London
Thu 9 Colston Hall, Bristol

HMLTD
Tue 7 100 Club, London

IDLES
Sun 5 Esquires, Bedford
Mon 6 Portland Arms, Cambridge
Wed 8 The Fleece, Bristol
Thu 9 Colchester Arts, Colchester

JAGWAR MA
Fri 3 Music Library, Lancaster

JENS KUROSS
Wed 8 Archspace, London

KADHJA BONET
Mon 6 Castle Hotel, Manchester
Tue 7 The Courtyard, London

KEHLANI
Fri 3 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Sat 4 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sun 5 & Mon 6 KOKO, London
Wed 8 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London

LADY LESHURR
Fri 3 Heaven, London

LANY
Mon 6 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Tue 7 Gorilla, Manchester
Wed 8 KOKO, London

LAURA MARLING
Wed 8 O2 Academy & Underground, Leeds
Thu 9 Colston Hall, Bristol

MEILYR JONES
Fri 3 The Gate Arts & Community Centre, Cardiff
Sat 4 The Ruby Lounge, Manchester
Mon 6 The Fleece, Bristol
Tue 7 The Hope & Ruin, Brighton
Wed 8 Islington Assembly Hall, London

METHYL ETHEL
Fri 3 King Tut's, Glasgow
Sat 4 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Sun 5 Bodega, Nottingham
Tue 7 The Green Door Store, Brighton

MITSKI
Sat 4 The Haunt, Brighton
Mon 6 Village Underground, London
Tue 7 Thekla, Bristol
Thu 9 The Ruby Lounge, Manchester

NOVA TWINS
Tue 7 CLF Art Cafe, London

THE ORWELLS
Fri 3 The Haunt, Brighton
Sat 4 Thekla, Bristol
Sun 5 Gorilla, Manchester
Tue 7 Scala, London

SUM 41
Fri 3 O2 Academy, Bristol
Sat 4 Rock City, Nottingham
Mon 6 Guildhall, Southampton

TALL SHIPS
Fri 3 The Cookie, Leicester
Sat 4 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Mon 6 King Tut's, Glasgow
Tue 7 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Wed 8 Omeara, London
Thu 9 The Louisiana, Bristol

TEN FÉ
Wed 8 The Green Door Store, Brighton
Thu 9 Oslo, London

TOOTHLESS
Fri 3 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Sat 4 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sun 5 The Hope & Ruin, Brighton

THE XX
Sat 4 Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham
Sun 5 & Mon 6 O2 Apollo, Manchester
Wed 8 & Thu 9 O2 Academy, Brixton

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, WENN, REX FEATURES, ALAMY

EMP

Want merch? We're Europe's #1.
Alternative fashion and music and entertainment merchandise
Choose from **30,000+ items** online or order your **FREE catalogue now!**

Get 20%* discount when you spend £30 or more use discount code NMEEMP

www.emp.co.uk

ALTERNATIVE CLOTHING / MUSIC, MOVIE, TV & GAMING MERCH

*valid until 30.04.2017

TWIN ATLANTIC
[U K M A Y 2 0 1 7]

[18.05.2017] SOLD OUT BEACH BALLROOM	[22.05.2017] BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY	[26.05.2017] EXETER LEMON GROVE
[19.05.2017] INVERNESS IRONWORKS	[23.05.2017] LONDON ELECTRIC BRIXTON	[30.05.2017] WREXHAM WILLIAM ASTON HALL
[20.05.2017] COVENTRY THE COPPER ROOMS	[24.05.2017] CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION	[31.05.2017] SOLD OUT SIN CITY

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

AN SJM CONCERTS & DF PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH PRIMARY TALENT

BURST PRESENTS
JAY PRINCE & Friends

FRI.03.MARCH
YXNG BANE
SIOBHAN BELL
RENZ
JAY PRINCE
BURST DJS

FRI.10.MARCH
LANCEY FOUX
BENNY MAILS
WARREN XCLNCE
JAY PRINCE
BURST DJS

FRI.17.MARCH
XAMVOLO
RALPH HARDY
JAY PRINCE
BURST DJS

FRI.24.MARCH
DJ SEMTEX
TE DNESS
JAY PRINCE
BURST DJS

#GETBURST EVERY FRIDAY
HIP HOP / HOUSE / FUTURE BEATS

KOKO
KOKO.UK.COM / 0844 847 2258

Soundtrack of my life

David Haye

Big-time boxer and former world champ

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF HOME

BIG MOUNTAIN

Baby I Love Your Way

"Big Mountain did a really good job on this cover. Mum and Dad used to play the tape all the time at home and it always makes me smile."

THE FIRST SONG I FELL IN LOVE WITH

VANILLA ICE

Ice Ice Baby

"I was in primary school when that song came out and I remember dancing in assembly to those songs. We did a pre-rehearsed dance and the running man to it. I still know all the words."

BOBBY BROWN

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

BOBBY BROWN

Don't Be Cruel

"I remember this one – it had 'My Prerogative' on it. I went to buy it on cassette and I was really happy with my purchase. I paid for it with a mix of pocket money and coins I picked up from down the back of the sofa."

THE SONG I LISTEN TO AFTER A VICTORY

MICHAEL JACKSON

P.Y.T.

"It reminds me of being a kid – and all I wanted to do when I was a kid was be the World Heavyweight Champion, so that kind of connects. So I know that I've done what I always said I would do."

THE SONG I WISH I'D WRITTEN

MARVIN GAYE

When Did You Stop Loving Me, When Did I Stop Loving You

"That's a deep song that I'm sure people can relate to. I understand it and I'm sure anyone who's had relationships work and not work would get that."

THE SONG THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

SURVIVOR

Eye Of The Tiger

"It got me up in the morning as a kid – running and drinking raw eggs."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

MCFADDEN & WHITEHEAD

Ain't No Stopping Us Now

"My uncle used to have parties and when this came on everybody would smile and we were united. That's why I chose it for my ring walk song."

THE SONG I CAN'T GET OUT OF MY HEAD

GRACE JONES

La Vie En Rose

"I don't know why. I just keep playing it 'cause I really like it but I don't know what she's saying – she's singing French for half the song. Whatever she's saying sounds nice."

GRACE JONES

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

BAY CITY ROLLERS

Bye Bye Baby

"It's upbeat for a funeral, so that's what I like about it. It's not a morbid song like 'Dance With My Father' by Luther Vandross – that makes everyone cry."

THE SONG I LISTEN TO WHEN I'M TRAINING

JAMES BROWN

Hot Pants

"That song makes me feel good and pumped-up. I think it's impossible to listen to James Brown and not get a little bit excited."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

BOBBY BROWN

Wembley Arena

"I told everyone I went to a Bobby Brown concert and I was really proud – it earned me some cool cred at school. We had the nosebleed seats but we were still there."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

BOBBY DARIN

Mack The Knife

"It would have to be something that doesn't require much singing! Something half-singing and half-talking."

THE SONG I LISTEN TO BEFORE A BIG FIGHT

CHANGE

The Glow Of Love

"It's got the best bridge and it gets me really fired up. As soon as I hear it, I get changed and get ready to go to battle. It's the opposite of what people would expect to listen to before a fight."

David Haye vs Tony Bellew is exclusively live from The O2 on Sky Sports Box Office on March 4

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

NICK ZINNER

Yeah Yeah Yeahs

March 8, 2003

"Girls in the front row were jumping up and grinding against Karen. She seems to inspire that kind of thing."

INTERVIEW: TOM SMITH. PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2017

8-11 JUNE

4 HEADLINERS OVER 3 NIGHTS

FRIDAY 9TH JUNE - CO-HEADLINERS

DAVID GUETTA • RUN DMC

KAISER CHIEFS • RAG 'N' BONE MAN • THE PRETENDERS
JONAS BLUE DJ SET • NOTHING BUT THIEVES • ALISON MOYET • WARD THOMAS
LUCY SPRAGGAN • PARADISIA

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE

ARCADE FIRE

CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN • EXAMPLE+DJ WIRE • THE KOOKS
ZARA LARSSON • TEXAS • JACK SAVORETTI • MELANIE C • TOM CHAPLIN
THE SLOW READERS CLUB • SPACE • THE SHOWHAWK DUO • ELLE EXXE
BANG BANG ROMEO • ALEX FRANCIS • THE GERMEIN SISTERS • VICTORIA
THE NOVATONES • THE SECOND SONS

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE

ROD STEWART

BASTILLE • GEORGE EZRA • CLEAN BANDIT • IMELDA MAY
THE SHIRES • THE VAMPS • SCOUTING FOR GIRLS
THE STRYPES • THE UNDERTONES • THE SHERLOCKS • THE AMAZONS
JUDAS • WILD FRONT

+ THURSDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCES FROM
RAZORLIGHT • STARSAILOR • THE ALARM
THE SEX PISSED DOLLS

HOVER TRAVEL · RED FUNNEL · WIGHTLINK

ticketmaster®

PLUS MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED, GET TICKETS NOW!
WWW.ISLEOFWIGHTFESTIVAL.COM

head & shoulders MEN ULTRA

NEW

UNBEATABLE*

DANDRUFF PROTECTION

DESIGNED FOR MEN

New Head & Shoulders Men Ultra.
Designed for men, its formula with high-performance booster gives unbeatable dandruff protection* and stronger hair**.
Now you are up for any challenge.

*With regular use – versus anti-dandruff shampoos, excluding anti-dandruff shampoos containing selenium. **Strength against breakage.